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Turán's problem and Ramsey numbers for trees

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Abstract

Let $T_n^1=(V,E_1)$ and $T_n^2=(V,E_2)$ be the trees on n vertices with $V=\{v_0,v_1,\ldots,v_{n-1}\}$, $E_1=\{v_0v_1,\ldots,v_0v_{n-3},v_{n-4}v_{n-2},v_{n-3}v_{n-1}\}$, and $E_2=\{v_0v_1,\ldots,\ v_0v_{n-3},v_{n-3}v_{n-2},v_{n-3}\ v_{n-1}\}$. In this paper, for $p\ge n\ge 5$ we obtain explicit formulas for $\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n^1)$ and $\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n^2)$, where $\mathrm{ex}(p;L)$ denotes the maximal number of edges in a graph of order p not containing L as a subgraph. Let $r(G_1,G_2)$ be the Ramsey number of the two graphs G_1 and G_2. In this paper we also obtain some explicit formulas for $r(T_m,T_n^i)$, where $i\in\{1,2\}$ and T_m is a tree on m vertices with $\Delta(T_m)\le m-3$.

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1. Introduction

In this paper, all graphs are simple graphs. For a graph $G=(V(G),E(G))$ let $e(G)=|E(G)|$ be the number of edges in G and let $\Delta(G)$ be the maximal degree of G. For a forbidden graph L, let $\mathrm{ex}(p;L)$ denote the maximal number of edges in a graph of order p not containing any copies of L. The corresponding Turán problem is to evaluate $\mathrm{ex}(p;L)$. For a graph G of order p, if G does not contain any copies of L and $e(G)=\mathrm{ex}(p;L)$, we say that G is an extremal graph. In this paper we also use $\mathrm{Ex}(p;L)$ to denote the set of extremal graphs of order p not containing L as a subgraph.

Let $\mathbb{N}$ be the set of positive integers. Let $p,n\in\mathbb{N}$ with $p\ge n\ge 2$. For a given tree T_n on n vertices, it is difficult to determine the value of $\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n)$. The famous Erdős-Sós conjecture asserts that $\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n)\le\frac{(n-2)p}{2}$. For the progress on the Erdős-Sós conjecture, see for example [8, 11]. Write $p=k(n-1)+r$, where $k\in\mathbb{N}$ and $r\in\{0,1,\ldots,n-2\}$. Let P_n be the path on n vertices. In [4] Faudree and Schelp showed that

$$(1.1)\qquad \mathrm{ex}(p;P_n)=k\binom{n-1}{2}+\binom{r}{2}=\frac{(n-2)p-r(n-1-r)}{2}.$$

Let $K_{1,n-1}$ denote the unique tree on n vertices with $\Delta(K_{1,n-1}) = n-1$, and let T'_n denote the unique tree on n vertices with $\Delta(T'_n) = n-2$. For $n \ge 4$ let $T^*_n = (V,E)$ be the tree on n vertices with $V = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$ and $E = \{v_0v_1, \dots, v_0v_{n-3}, v_{n-3}v_{n-2},\ v_{n-2}v_{n-1}\}$. In [10] we determine $\mathrm{ex}(p; K_{1,n-1})$, $\mathrm{ex}(p; T'_n)$ and $\mathrm{ex}(p; T^*_n)$. For $i = 1, 2$ let $T^i_n = (V, E_i)$ be the tree on n vertices with

$$\begin{aligned}
&V = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}\},\\
&E_1 = \{v_0v_1, \dots, v_0v_{n-3}, v_{n-4}v_{n-2}, v_{n-3}v_{n-1}\},\\
&E_2 = \{v_0v_1, \dots, v_0v_{n-3}, v_{n-3}v_{n-2}, v_{n-3}v_{n-1}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

In this paper, for $p \ge n \ge 5$ we obtain explicit formulas for $\mathrm{ex}(p; T^1_n)$ and $\mathrm{ex}(p; T^2_n)$ (see Theorems 2.1 and 3.1).

For a graph G, as usual $\overline{G}$ denotes the complement of G. Let G_1 and G_2 be two graphs. The Ramsey number $r(G_1, G_2)$ is the smallest positive integer p such that, for every graph G with p vertices, either G contains a copy of G_1 or else $\overline{G}$ contains a copy of G_2.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \ge 6$ and let T_n be a tree on n vertices. As mentioned in [7], recently Zhao proved the following conjecture of Burr and Erdős [2]: $r(T_n, T_n) \le 2n-2$. Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. In 1973 Burr and Roberts [3] showed that for $m, n \ge 3$,

$$r(K_{1,m-1}, K_{1,n-1}) = \begin{cases} m+n-3 & \text{if } 2 \nmid mn,\\ m+n-2 & \text{if } 2 \mid mn. \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

In 1995, Guo and Volkmann [5] proved that for $n > m \ge 4$,

$$r(K_{1,m-1}, T'_n) = \begin{cases} m+n-3 & \text{if } 2 \mid m(n-1),\\ m+n-4 & \text{if } 2 \nmid m(n-1). \end{cases} \tag{1.3}$$

Recently the first author evaluated the Ramsey number $r(T_m, T^*_n)$ for $T_m \in \{P_m, K_{1,m-1}, T'_m, T^*_m\}$. In particular, he proved that (see [9]) for $n > m \ge 7$,

$$r(K_{1,m-1}, T^*_n) = \begin{cases} m+n-3 & \text{if } m-1 \mid n-3,\\ m+n-4 & \text{if } m-1 \nmid n-3. \end{cases} \tag{1.4}$$

Suppose $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$. In this paper, using the formula for $\mathrm{ex}(p; T^i_n)$ and the method in [9] we evaluate $r(T_m, T^i_n)$ for $T_m \in \{K_{1,m-1}, T'_m, T^*_m,\ T^j_m\}$. In particular, we have the following typical results:

$$\begin{aligned}
&r(T^i_n, T^j_n) = 2n-6-(1-(-1)^n)/2,\ r(P_n, T^j_n) = 2n-7 \quad \text{for} \quad n \ge 17,\\
&r(T^i_n, T'_n) = r(T^i_n, T^*_n) = 2n-5 \quad \text{for} \quad n \ge 8,\\
&r(K_{1,m-1}, T^i_n) = m+n-4 \quad \text{for} \quad n > m \ge 7 \quad \text{and} \quad 2 \mid mn,\\
&r(T^i_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5 \quad \text{for} \quad m \ge 7,\ n \ge (m-3)^2+3 \quad \text{and} \quad m-1 \nmid n-4,
\end{aligned}$$

and for $n > m \ge 16$,

$$r(T'_m, T^i_n) = \begin{cases} m+n-4 & \text{if } m-1 \mid n-4,\\ m+n-6 & \text{if } n = m+1 \equiv 1 \pmod 2,\\ m+n-5 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In addition to the notation introduced above, throughout the paper we also use the following symbols: $[x]$ is the greatest integer not exceeding x, $d(v)$ is the degree of the vertex v in a graph, $\Gamma(v)$ is the set of vertices adjacent to the vertex v, $d(u,v)$ is the distance between the two vertices u and v in a graph, K_n is the complete graph on n vertices, $G[V_0]$ is the subgraph of G induced by vertices in the set V_0 (we write $G[v_1,\dots,v_m]$ instead of $G[\{v_1,\dots,v_m\}]$), $G-V_0$ is the subgraph of G obtained by deleting vertices in V_0 and all edges incident to them, and finally $e(V_1V_1')$ is the number of edges with one endpoint in V_1 and another endpoint in V_1'.

2. Evaluation of ex$(p;T_n^1)$

Lemma 2.1. *Let $p,n\in\mathbb{N}$ with $p\ge n-1\ge 1$. Then $ex(p;K_{1,n-1})=[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}]$.*

This is a known result. See for example [10, Theorem 2.1].

Lemma 2.2. *Let $p,n\in\mathbb{N}$, $p\ge n\ge 7$ and $G\in Ex(p;T_n^1)$. Suppose that G is connected. Then $\Delta(G)=n-4$ and $e(G)=[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$.*

Proof. Since a graph not containing $K_{1,n-3}$ as a subgraph implies that the graph does not contain T_n^1 as a subgraph, by Lemma 2.1 we have

$$e(G)=\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n^1)\ge \mathrm{ex}(p;K_{1,n-3})=\Big[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}\Big]. \tag{2.1}$$

If $\Delta(G)\le n-5$, using Euler's theorem we see that $e(G)=\frac{1}{2}\sum_{v\in V(G)}d(v)\le\frac{(n-5)p}{2}$. This together with (2.1) yields $\frac{(n-4)p-1}{2}\le[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]\le e(G)\le\frac{(n-5)p}{2}$. This is impossible. Hence $\Delta(G)\ge n-4$. Now we show that $\Delta(G)=n-4$.

Suppose $q\ge n$ and $q=k(n-1)+r$ with $k\in\mathbb{N}$ and $r\in\{0,1,\dots,n-2\}$. Then clearly $kK_{n-1}\cup K_r$ does not contain any copies of T_n^1 and so $\mathrm{ex}(q;T_n^1)\ge e(kK_{n-1}\cup K_r)$. For $q=n$ we see that $e(kK_{n-1}\cup K_r)=e(K_{n-1}\cup K_1)=\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2}>2n-1$. For $q\ge n+1$ we see that $(n-6)q\ge(n-6)(n+1)>(\frac{n-1}{2})^2-2$ and so $e(kK_{n-1}\cup K_r)=\frac{k(n-1)(n-2)}{2}+\frac{r(r-1)}{2}=\frac{(n-2)q-r(n-1-r)}{2}\ge\frac{(n-2)q-(\frac{n-1}{2})^2}{2}>2q-1$. Hence

$$\mathrm{ex}(q;T_n^1)\ge e(kK_{n-1}\cup K_r)>2q-1\quad\text{for}\quad q\ge n. \tag{2.2}$$

Suppose $v_0\in V(G), d(v_0)=\Delta(G)=m$ and $\Gamma(v_0)=\{v_1,\dots,v_m\}$. If $m=p-1$, as G does not contain T_n^1 as a subgraph, we see that $G[v_1,\dots,v_m]$ does not contain $2K_2$ as a subgraph and hence $e(G[v_1,\dots,v_m])\le m-1$. Therefore

$$e(G)=d(v_0)+e(G[v_1,\dots,v_m])\le m+m-1=2p-3. \tag{2.3}$$

By (2.2), we have $e(G)=\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n^1)>2p-1$ and we get a contradiction. Hence $m<p-1$. Suppose that $u_1,\dots,u_t$ are all vertices in G such that $d(u_1,v_0)=\dots=d(u_t,v_0)=2$. Then $t\ge 1$. Assume $u_1v_1\in E(G)$ with no loss of generality. If $m=p-2$, then $V(G)=\{v_0,v_1,\dots,v_m,u_1\}$ and $v_iv_j\notin E(G)$ for $2\le i<j\le m$. If $v_1v_i\in E(G)$ for some $i\in\{2,3,\dots,m\}$, then $u_1v_j\notin E(G)$ for all $j\ne 1,i$. Hence $\mathrm{ex}(p;T_n^1)=e(G)\le\max\{2m,m+3\}\le 2m=2p-4$, which contradicts (2.2).

By the above, $m<p-2$. We first assume $m\ge n-2$. As G does not contain any copies of T_n^1, we see that $\{v_2,\dots,v_m\}$ is an independent set, $u_iv_j\notin E(G)$ for any $i\in\{2,3,\dots,t\}$ and $j\in\{2,3,\dots,m\}$, and $u_iv_1\in E(G)$ for any $i=1,2,\dots,t$. Set $V_1=\{v_0,v_2,v_3,\dots,v_m\}$. Then

$e(G[V_1]) = m-1$. If u_1 is adjacent to at least two vertices in $\{v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_m\}$, then $v_1v_j \notin E(G)$ for any $j = 2, 3, \ldots, m$. If v_1 is adjacent to at least two vertices in $\{v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_m\}$, then $u_1v_j \notin E(G)$ for any $j = 2, 3, \ldots, m$. Hence there are at most m edges with one endpoint in V_1 and another endpoint in $G - V_1$. Therefore,

$$e(G) \le e(G[V_1]) + m + e(G - V_1) = 2m - 1 + e(G - V_1). \tag{2.4}$$

For $m \in \{n-2, n-1\}$ let $G_1 = K_m$. Then clearly $e(G_1) = \frac{m(m-1)}{2} > 2m-1$. For $m = k(n-1) + r \ge n$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 \le r \le n-2$ let $G_1 = kK_{n-1} \cup K_r$. Then G_1 does not contain any copies of T_n^1 and $e(G_1) > 2m-1$ by (2.2). Thus, by (2.4) we have $e(G) \le 2m - 1 + e(G - V_1) < e(G_1 \cup (G - V_1))$ for $m \ge n-2$. This contradicts the fact $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^1)$.

Suppose $m = n-3$ and $d(v_1) = n-3$. Then $v_1v_s \notin E(G)$ for some $s \in \{2, 3, \ldots, n-3\}$. We claim that $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_m, u_1, \ldots, u_t\}$. Otherwise, there exists $w \in V(G)$ such that $d(v_0, w) = 3$. As $d(v_1) = n-3$, we see that the subgraph induced by $\{v_1, v_s, w\} \cup \Gamma(v_1)$ contains a copy of T_n^1. This contradicts the assumption $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^1)$. Hence the claim is true and so $|V(G)| = p = n - 2 + t$. Since $p \ge n$ we have $t \ge 2$. For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t$ and $j = 2, 3, \ldots, n-3$ we have $u_iv_j \notin E(G)$, $u_iv_1 \in E(G)$ and so $t + 1 \le d(v_1) = n-3$. Therefore $2 \le t \le n-4$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e(G[v_0, v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_{n-3}]) + d(v_1) + e(G[u_1, \ldots, u_t]) \\ &\le \binom{n-3}{2} + n - 3 + \binom{t}{2} = \binom{n-2}{2} + \binom{t}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly $K_{n-1} \cup K_{t-1}$ does not contain T_n^1 and

$$e(K_{n-1} \cup K_{t-1}) = \binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{t-1}{2} = \binom{n-2}{2} + \binom{t}{2} + n - 1 - t > e(G).$$

This contradicts the assumption $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(n-2+t; T_n^1)$.

Now suppose $m = n-3$ and $d(v_1) \le n-4$. If $t = 1$, setting $V_2 = \{v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_{n-3}, u_1\}$ we see that

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e(G[v_0, v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_{n-3}]) + d(v_1) + d(u_1) - 1 + e(G - V_2) \\ &\le \binom{n-3}{2} + n - 4 + n - 4 + e(G - V_2) \\ &= \frac{n^2 - 3n - 4}{2} + e(G - V_2) < e(K_{n-1} \cup (G - V_2)). \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts the assumption $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^1)$. Hence $t \ge 2$. For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t$ and $j = 2, 3, \ldots, n-3$ we see that $u_iv_j \notin E(G)$ and $u_iv_1 \in E(G)$. Let $V_3 = \{v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_{n-3}\}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= d(v_1) + e(G[v_0, v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_{n-3}]) + e(G - V_3) \\ &\le n - 4 + \binom{n-3}{2} + e(G - V_3) = \frac{n^2 - 5n + 4}{2} + e(G - V_3) \\ &< e(K_{n-2} \cup (G - V_3)). \end{aligned}$$

Since G is an extremal graph, we get a contradiction.

Summarizing all the above we obtain $\Delta(G) = n-4$ and so $e(G) = \sum_{v\in V(G)} d(v) \le \frac{(n-4)p}{2}$. This together with (2.1) yields $e(G) = [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$, which completes the proof.

Lemma 2.3. *Let $n, n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n_1 < n-1$ and $n_2 < n-1$. Then*

$$\binom{n_1}{2} + \binom{n_2}{2} < \min\left\{\binom{n_1+n_2}{2}, \binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{n_1+n_2-n+1}{2}\right\}.$$

Proof. It is clear that

$$\binom{n_1}{2} + \binom{n_2}{2} = \frac{(n_1+n_2)(n_1+n_2-1)-2n_1n_2}{2} < \binom{n_1+n_2}{2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}&\binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{n_1+n_2-n+1}{2} - \binom{n_1}{2} - \binom{n_2}{2}\\ &= \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+(n_1+n_2-n+1)(n_1+n_2-n)}{2} - \frac{(n_1+n_2)(n_1+n_2-1)-2n_1n_2}{2}\\ &= (n-1-n_1)(n-1-n_2) > 0.\end{aligned}$$

Thus the lemma is proved.

Lemma 2.4. *Suppose that $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \ge 6$, and G is a connected graph of order p that does not contain any copies of T_6^1. Then $e(G) \le 2p-3$.*

Proof. Clearly $\Delta(T_6^1) = 3$. Suppose $v_0 \in V(G)$, $d(v_0) = \Delta(G) = m$ and $\Gamma(v_0) = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. If $\Delta(G) = m \le 3$, using Euler's theorem we see that $e(G) \le \frac{3p}{2} \le 2p-3$. From now on we assume $\Delta(G) = m \ge 4$. If $d(v) \le 2$ for all $v \in V(G) - \{v_0\}$, then

$$e(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{v\in V(G)} d(v) \le \frac{1}{2}\big(m + 2(p-1)\big) \le \frac{3(p-1)}{2} < 2p-3.$$

So the result is true. Now we assume $d(v) \ge 3$ for some $v \in V(G) - \{v_0\}$. We may choose a vertex $u_0 \in V(G)$ so that $u_0 \ne v_0$, $d(u_0) \ge 3$ and $d(u_0, v_0)$ is as small as possible.

We first assume $d(u_0, v_0) = 1$ and $u_0 = v_1$ with no loss of generality. That is, $d(v_1) \ge 3$. Suppose $\Gamma(v_1) \subset \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. Since $d(v_1) \ge 3$ and G does not contain any copies of T_6^1, we see that $V(G) = \{v_0, \dots, v_m\}$, $m = p-1 \ge 5$ and $G[v_1, \dots, v_m]$ does not contain any copies of $2K_2$. Thus $e(G) \le d(v_0) + m - 1 = 2m-1 \le 2(m+1)-3 = 2p-3$. Now assume $\Gamma(v_1) - \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\} = \{w_1, \dots, w_t\}$. Since $d(v_0) = m \ge 5$, $d(v_1) \ge 3$ and G does not contain any copies of T_6^1, we see that $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m, w_1, \dots, w_t\}$ and $\{v_2, \dots, v_m\}$ is an independent set. For $t \ge 2$, we have $e(G[w_1, \dots, w_t]) \le 1$ and $v_iw_j \notin E(G)$ for any $i \in \{2, 3, \dots, m\}$ and $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$. Thus $e(G) \le d(v_0)+d(v_1)-1+1 \le 2m < 2(m+1+t)-3 = 2p-3$. Now assume $t = 1$. Then $v_1v_i \in E(G)$ for some $i \in \{2, 3, \dots, m\}$ and $v_jw_1 \notin E(G)$ for $j \in \{2, 3, \dots, m\} - \{i\}$. Hence $e(G) \le d(v_0)+d(v_1)-1+1 \le 2m < 2(m+2)-3 = 2p-3$.

Next we assume $d(u_0, v_0) = 2$. Then $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ is an independent set. If $\Gamma(u_0) \subseteq \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$, then $V(G) = \{v_0, \dots, v_m, u_0\}$ and so $e(G) = d(v_0)+d(u_0) \le m+m < 2(m+2)-3 = 2p-3$. If $\Gamma(u_0)-\{v_2, \dots, v_m\} = \{v_1, w_1, \dots, w_t\}$, we see that $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m, u_0, w_1, \dots, w_t\}$ and so $e(G) = d(v_0)+d(u_0)+e(G[w_1, \dots, w_t]) \le m+m+1 < 2(m+2+t)-3 = 2p-3$.

Finally we assume $d(u_0, v_0) \ge 3$. Suppose that $v_0v_1u_1u_2\cdots u_ku_0$ is the shortest path in G between v_0 and u_0, and $\Gamma(u_0) = \{w_1, \dots, w_t, u_k\}$. Since G is connected and G does not contain any copies of T_6^1, it is easily seen that $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m, u_1, \dots, u_k, u_0, w_1, \dots, w_t\}$,

$d(v_2) = \cdots = d(v_m) = 1$, $d(v_1) = d(u_1) = \cdots = d(u_k) = 2$ and $e(G[w_1, \ldots, w_t]) \le 1$. Clearly G is a tree or a graph obtained by adding an edge to a tree. Hence $e(G) \le p < 2p - 3$.

Summarizing all the above proves the lemma.

Theorem 2.1. *Suppose $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \ge n-1 \ge 4$ and $p = k(n-1) + r$, where $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$. Then*

$$ex(p; T_n^1) = \max\Big\{\Big[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}\Big] - (n-1+r), \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2}\Big\}$$

$$= \begin{cases} [\frac{(n-2)p}{2}] - (n-1+r) & \text{if } n \ge 16 \text{ and } 3 \le r \le n-6 \text{ or if} \\ & \quad 13 \le n \le 15 \text{ and } 4 \le r \le n-7, \\ \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Clearly $\mathrm{ex}(n-1; T_n^1) = e(K_{n-1}) = \frac{(n-2)(n-1)}{2}$. Thus the result is true for $p = n-1$. From now on we assume $p \ge n$. Since $T_5^1 \cong P_5$, by (1.1) we obtain the result in the case $n = 5$. Now we assume $n \ge 6$. Suppose $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^1)$ and $G_1, \ldots, G_t$ are all components of G with $|V(G_i)| = p_i$ and $p_1 \le p_2 \le \cdots \le p_t$. Then clearly $G_i \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_i; T_n^1)$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t$.

We first consider the case $n = 6$. If $p_i \le 5$, then clearly $G_i \cong K_{p_i}$ and $e(G_i) = \binom{p_i}{2}$. If $p_i \ge 6$ and $p_i = 5k_i + r_i$ with $k_i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 \le r_i \le 4$, from Lemma 2.4 we have $e(G_i) \le 2p_i - 3 \le 2p_i - \frac{r_i(5-r_i)}{2} = e(k_iK_5 \cup K_{r_i})$. Since $k_iK_5 \cup K_{r_i}$ does not contain any copies of T_6^1 and $G_i \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_i; T_6^1)$, we see that $e(G_i) \ge e(k_iK_5 \cup K_{r_i})$ and so $e(G_i) = e(k_iK_5 \cup K_{r_i})$. Therefore, there is a graph $G' \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_6^1)$ such that $G' = a_1K_1 \cup a_2K_2 \cup a_3K_3 \cup a_4K_4 \cup a_5K_5$, where $a_1, \ldots, a_5$ are nonnegative integers. If $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 \le 1$, then $\mathrm{ex}(p; T_6^1) = e(G') = e(a_5K_5 \cup K_r) = k\binom{5}{2} + \binom{r}{2}$. If $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 > 1$, then $2a_1 + 3a_2 + 3a_3 + 2a_4 > 3 \ge \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} & e(a_1K_1 \cup a_2K_2 \cup a_3K_3 \cup a_4K_4) \\ & = a_2 + 3a_3 + 6a_4 < 2(a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3 + 4a_4) - \frac{r(5-r)}{2} = (k - a_5)\binom{5}{2} + \binom{r}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\mathrm{ex}(p; T_6^1) = e(G') = e(a_1K_1 \cup a_2K_2 \cup a_3K_3 \cup a_4K_4) + e(a_5K_5) < k\binom{5}{2} + \binom{r}{2}$. Since $kK_5 \cup K_r$ does not contain any copies of T_6^1, we get a contradiction. Thus $\mathrm{ex}(p; T_6^1) = e(kK_5 \cup K_r) = k\binom{5}{2} + \binom{r}{2} = 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. This proves the result for $n = 6$.

From now on we assume $n \ge 7$. If $t = 1$, then G is connected. Thus, by Lemma 2.2 we have

$$(2.5) \qquad e(G) = \Big[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}\Big] \quad \text{for} \quad t = 1.$$

Now we assume $t \ge 2$. We claim that $p_i \ge n-1$ for $i \ge 2$. Otherwise, $p_1 \le p_2 < n-1$ and so $G_1 \cup G_2 \cong K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2}$. If $p_1 + p_2 < n$, by Lemma 2.3 we have $e(G_1 \cup G_2) = e(K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2}) = \binom{p_1}{2} + \binom{p_2}{2} < \binom{p_1+p_2}{2} = e(K_{p_1+p_2})$. Since $K_{p_1+p_2}$ does not contain T_n^1 and $G_1 \cup G_2 \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_1 + p_2; T_n^1)$ we get a contradiction. Hence $p_1 + p_2 \ge n$. Using Lemma 2.3 again we see that

$$\begin{aligned} e(G_1 \cup G_2) &= e(K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2}) = \binom{p_1}{2} + \binom{p_2}{2} \\ & < \binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{p_1 + p_2 - n + 1}{2} = e(K_{n-1} \cup K_{p_1+p_2-n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Since $p_1 \le p_2 < n-1$, we have $p_1 + p_2 - n + 1 < n - 1$. Therefore $K_{n-1} \cup K_{p_1+p_2-n+1}$ does not contain T_n^1. As $G_1 \cup G_2$ is an extremal graph without T_n^1, we also get a contradiction. Thus, the claim is true.

Next we claim that $p_i \le n-1$ for all $i = 1, 2, \ldots, t-1$. If $p_{t-1} \ge n$, by Lemma 2.2 we have

$$e(G_{t-1} \cup G_t) = e(G_{t-1}) + e(G_t) = \left[\frac{(n-4)p_{t-1}}{2}\right] + \left[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\right] \le \left[\frac{(n-4)(p_{t-1}+p_t)}{2}\right].$$

Let $H \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_{t-1} + p_t - n + 1; K_{1,n-3})$. As $p_{t-1} + p_t - n + 1 \ge p_t + 1 \ge n + 1$, we have $e(H) = [\frac{(n-4)(p_{t-1}+p_t-n+1)}{2}]$ by Lemma 2.1. Clearly $K_{n-1} \cup H$ does not contain any copies of T_n^1 and

$$\begin{aligned} e(K_{n-1} \cup H) = e(K_{n-1}) + e(H) &= \binom{n-1}{2} + \left[\frac{(n-4)(p_{t-1}+p_t-n+1)}{2}\right] \\ &= \left[\frac{(n-4)(p_{t-1}+p_t)}{2}\right] + n - 1 > e(G_{t-1} \cup G_t). \end{aligned}$$

Since $G_{t-1} \cup G_t \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_{t-1} + p_t; T_n^1)$, we get a contradiction. Hence $p_1 \le p_2 \le \cdots \le p_{t-1} \le n-1$. Combining this with the previous assertion that $p_t \ge \cdots \ge p_2 \ge n-1$ we obtain

$$(2.6) \qquad p_1 \le n-1, \quad p_2 = \cdots = p_{t-1} = n-1 \quad \text{and} \quad p_t \ge n-1.$$

As G is an extremal graph, we must have

$$(2.7) \qquad G_1 \cong K_{p_1}, \quad G_2 \cong K_{n-1}, \quad \ldots, \quad G_{t-1} \cong K_{n-1}.$$

If $p_t = n-1$, then $G_t \cong K_{n-1}$. By (2.7), $G \cong K_{p_1} \cup (t-1)K_{n-1} \cong kK_{n-1} \cup K_r$. Thus,

$$(2.8) \qquad e(G) = k\binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{r}{2} = \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2} \quad \text{for } t \ge 2 \text{ and } p_t = n-1.$$

Now we assume $p_t \ge n$. By Lemma 2.2, $e(G_t) = [\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}]$. Since $p_1 \le n-1$, we have $G_1 \cong K_{p_1}$ and so $e(G_1) = e(K_{p_1}) = \binom{p_1}{2}$. Let $H_1 \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_1 + p_t; K_{1,n-3})$. Then H_1 does not contain T_n^1 as a subgraph. By Lemma 2.1, for $p_1 \le n-4$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} e(H_1) = \left[\frac{(n-4)(p_1+p_t)}{2}\right] &\ge \left[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\right] + \left[\frac{(n-4)p_1}{2}\right] \\ &\ge \left[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\right] + \frac{(n-4)(p_1-1)}{2} + 1 \\ &> \left[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\right] + \frac{p_1(p_1-1)}{2} = e(G_1 \cup G_t). \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts $G_1 \cup G_t \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_1 + p_t; T_n^1)$. Hence $n-3 \le p_1 \le n-1$.

For $p_1 \in \{n-3, n-2\}$ and $p_t \ge n$, we have $p_1(p_1 - (n-3)) \le 2n-4$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} e(G_1 \cup G_t) = e(G_1) + e(G_t) &= \binom{p_1}{2} + \left[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\right] \\ &\le \frac{p_1(p_1-1) + (n-4)p_t}{2} = \frac{p_1(p_1-(n-3)) + (n-4)(p_1+p_t)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\le \frac{2n-4+(n-4)(p_1+p_t)}{2} = \binom{n-1}{2} + \frac{(n-4)(p_1+p_t-n+1)-2}{2}$$
$$< \binom{n-1}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(p_1+p_t-n+1)}{2}\Big].$$

Let $H_2 \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_1+p_t-n+1; K_{1,n-3})$. Then $K_{n-1} \cup H_2$ does not contain any copies of T_n^1. Since $p_1+p_t-n+1 \ge p_1+1 \ge n-2$, applying Lemma 2.1 we have $e(H_2) = [\frac{(n-4)(p_1+p_t-n+1)}{2}]$. Thus, we have $e(K_{n-1} \cup H_2) = \binom{n-1}{2} + [\frac{(n-4)(p_1+p_t-n+1)}{2}] > e(G_1 \cup G_t)$. This contradicts $G_1 \cup G_t \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_1+p_t; T_n^1)$.

By the above, for $t \ge 2$ and $p_t \ge n$ we have $p_1 = p_2 = \cdots = p_{t-1} = n-1$. If $p_t \ge 2n-2$, setting $H_3 \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_t-(n-1); K_{1,n-3})$ and then applying Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 we find that

$$e(G_t) = \Big[\frac{(n-4)p_t}{2}\Big] < \binom{n-1}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(p_t-(n-1))}{2}\Big] = e(K_{n-1} \cup H_3).$$

This contradicts the fact $G_t \in \mathrm{Ex}(p_t; T_n^1)$. Hence $n \le p_t < 2n-2$ and so $r \ge 1$. Note that $p = k(n-1)+r = (k-1)(n-1)+n-1+r$ and $n \le n-1+r < 2n-2$. Hence $t = k$, $p_t = n-1+r$ and therefore

(2.9)
$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e((k-1)K_{n-1}) + e(G_t) = (k-1)\binom{n-1}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}\Big] \\ &= \Big[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}\Big] - (n-1+r) \quad \text{for } t \ge 2 \text{ and } p_t \ge n. \end{aligned}$$

Since $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^1)$, by comparing (2.5), (2.8) and (2.9) we get

$$e(G) = \max\Big\{\Big[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}\Big], \frac{(n-2)p-r(n-1-r)}{2}, \Big[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}\Big] - (n-1+r)\Big\}.$$

Observe that $p = k(n-1)+r \ge n-1+r$. We see that $[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}] = [\frac{(n-2)p}{2}] - p \le [\frac{(n-2)p}{2}] - (n-1+r)$ and therefore

(2.10)
$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{ex}(p; T_n^1) = e(G) &= \max\Big\{\frac{(n-2)p-r(n-1-r)}{2}, \Big[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}\Big] - (n-1+r)\Big\} \\ &= \frac{(n-2)p-r(n-1-r)}{2} + \max\Big\{0, \Big[\frac{r(n-3-r)-2(n-1)}{2}\Big]\Big\}. \end{aligned}$$

For $7 \le n \le 12$ we have $r(n-3-r)-2(n-1) \le \frac{(n-3)^2}{4} - 2(n-1) = \frac{(n-7)^2-32}{4} < 0$. For $r \in \{0,1,2,n-5,n-4,n-3,n-2\}$ we see that $r(n-3-r)-2(n-1) < 0$. Suppose $n \ge 13$ and $3 \le r \le n-6$. For $4 \le r \le n-7$ we have $|r - \frac{n-3}{2}| \le \frac{n-11}{2}$ and so

$$\begin{aligned} r(n-3-r)-2(n-1) &= \frac{n^2-14n+17}{4} - \Big(r - \frac{n-3}{2}\Big)^2 \\ &\ge \frac{n^2-14n+17}{4} - \Big(\frac{n-11}{2}\Big)^2 = 2n-26 \ge 0. \end{aligned}$$

For $r \in \{3, n-6\}$ we have $r(n-3-r)-2(n-1) = 3(n-6)-2(n-1) = n-16$. Now combining the above with (2.10) we deduce the result.

Corollary 2.1. *Suppose $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \geq n \geq 5$ and $n-1 \nmid p$. Then $\frac{(n-2)p}{2} - \frac{(n-1)^2}{8} \leq ex(p; T_n^1) \leq \frac{(n-2)(p-1)}{2}$.*

Proof. Suppose $p = k(n-1) + r$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-2\}$. Then $r \geq 1$. Clearly $\frac{(n-1)^2}{4} \geq r(n-1-r) = (\frac{n-1}{2})^2 - (\frac{n-1}{2} - r)^2 \geq (\frac{n-1}{2})^2 - (\frac{n-1}{2} - 1)^2 = n-2$ and $n - 1 + r > \frac{n-2}{2}$. Thus, from Theorem 2.1 we deduce that $\text{ex}(p; T_n^1) \leq \frac{(n-2)p-(n-2)}{2}$ and $\text{ex}(p; T_n^1) \geq \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2} \geq \frac{(n-2)p-(n-1)^2/4}{2}$. This proves the corollary.

3. Evaluation of ex$(p; T_n^2)$

Lemma 3.1. *Let $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \geq n \geq 7$ and $G \in Ex(p; T_n^2)$. Suppose that G is connected. Then $\Delta(G) \leq n-3$. Moreover, for $p < 2n-2$ we have $\Delta(G) \leq n-4$.*

Proof. Since a graph does not contain $K_{1,n-3}$ implies that the graph does not contain T_n^2, by Lemma 2.1 we have

$$e(G) = \text{ex}(p; T_n^2) \geq \text{ex}(p; K_{1,n-3}) = \Big[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}\Big]. \tag{3.1}$$

Suppose that $v_0 \in V(G)$, $d(v_0) = \Delta(G) = m$ and $\Gamma(v_0) = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. If $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\}$, then $m = p - 1 \geq n - 1$. Since G does not contain T_n^2, we see that $G[v_1, \dots, v_m]$ does not contain $K_{1,2}$ and hence $e(G[v_1, \dots, v_m]) \leq \frac{m}{2}$. Therefore $e(G) = d(v_0) + e(G[v_1, \dots, v_m]) \leq m + \frac{m}{2} = \frac{3(p-1)}{2} \leq \frac{(n-4)p-3}{2} < [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$. This contradicts (3.1). Thus $p > m + 1$. Suppose that $u_1, \dots, u_t$ are all vertices such that $d(u_1, v_0) = \cdots = d(u_t, v_0) = 2$. Then $t \geq 1$. We may assume without loss of generality that $v_1, \dots, v_s$ are all vertices in $\Gamma(v_0)$ adjacent to some vertex in the set $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$. Then $1 \leq s \leq m$. Let $V_1 = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\}, V_1' = V(G) - V_1$ and let $e(V_1 V_1')$ be the number of edges with one endpoint in V_1 and another endpoint in V_1'. Since G does not contain T_n^2, for $m \geq n-3$ each $v_i (1 \leq i \leq s)$ has one and only one adjacent vertex in the set $\{u_1, \dots, u_t\}$. Thus, for $m \geq n-3$ we must have $e(V_1 V_1') = s \geq t$.

If $m \geq n-1$, since G does not contain T_n^2 as a subgraph, we see that $d(v_i) \leq 2$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$ and so $e(G[V_1]) = d(v_0) + e(G[v_{s+1}, \dots, v_m]) \leq m + \frac{m-s}{2}$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e(G[V_1]) + e(V_1 V_1') + e(G - V_1) \\ &\leq \frac{3m - s}{2} + s + e(G - V_1) \leq 2m + e(G - V_1). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose $m + 1 = k(n-1) + r$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 \leq r \leq n-2$. Set $G_1 = kK_{n-1} \cup K_r$. Since $m + 1 \geq n$, by (2.2) we have $e(G_1) > 2(m+1) - 1 > 2m$. Thus, $e(G_1 \cup (G - V_1)) = e(G_1) + e(G - V_1) > 2m + e(G - V_1) \geq e(G)$. As G_1 does not contain any copies of T_n^2 and G is an extremal graph, we get a contradiction. Hence $\Delta(G) = m \leq n-2$.

Suppose $m = n-2$. As G does not contain T_n^2 as a subgraph, we see that $d(v_1) = \cdots =$

$d(v_s)=2$ and so $e(G[V_1])\le n-2+\binom{n-2-s}{2}$. Since $1\le s\le m=n-2\le 2n-8$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e(G)&=e(G[V_1])+e(V_1V_1')+e(G-V_1)\\ &\le \binom{n-2-s}{2}+n-2+s+e(G-V_1)\\ &=\frac{(n-2)(n-1)-s(2n-7-s)}{2}+e(G-V_1)\\ &<\binom{n-1}{2}+e(G-V_1)=e(K_{n-1}\cup(G-V_1)). \end{aligned}$$

This is impossible since G is an extremal graph.

By the above, $\Delta(G)\le n-3$. We first assume $\Delta(G)=n-3$. We claim that $d(v_i)\le n-4$ for $i=1,2,\ldots,s$. If $i\in\{1,2,\ldots,s\}$ and $d(v_i)=n-3$, let u_j be the unique adjacent vertex of v_i in $\{u_1,\ldots,u_t\}$ and let $V_2=\{v_0,v_1,\ldots,v_{n-3},u_j\}$. Then there is at most one vertex adjacent to u_j in $G-V_2$. Hence $e(G-V_1)\le 1+e(G-V_2)$. Since each v_r $(1\le r\le s)$ is adjacent to one and only one vertex in $\{u_1,\ldots,u_t\}$ and $\Delta(G[V_1])\le n-3$, we see that

$$e(G[V_1])=\frac{1}{2}\sum_{r=0}^{n-3}d_{G[V_1]}(v_r)\le\frac{s(n-4)+(n-2-s)(n-3)}{2}=\frac{(n-2)(n-3)-s}{2}.$$

Note that $s\le\Delta(G)=n-3$. From the above we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} e(G)&=e(G[V_1])+e(V_1V_1')+e(G-V_1)=e(G[V_1])+s+e(G-V_1)\\ &\le e(G[V_1])+s+1+e(G-V_2)\le\frac{(n-2)(n-3)-s}{2}+s+1+e(G-V_2)\\ &=\frac{(n-2)(n-3)+s+2}{2}+e(G-V_2)\le\frac{(n-2)(n-3)+n-1}{2}+e(G-V_2)\\ &<\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2}+e(G-V_2)=e(K_{n-1}\cup(G-V_2)). \end{aligned}$$

Since $K_{n-1}\cup(G-V_2)$ does not contain T_n^2 and G is an extremal graph, we get a contradiction. Hence the claim is true. Thus, for $\Delta(G)=n-3$ we have $d_{G[V_1]}(v_i)\le n-5$ for $i=1,2,\ldots,s$ and so

$$e(G[V_1])=\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=0}^{n-3}d_{G[V_1]}(v_i)\le\frac{s(n-5)+(n-2-s)(n-3)}{2}=\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}-s. \tag{3.2}$$

Now we assume $p<2n-2$ and $p=n-1+r$. Then $1\le r<n-1$. By the above, $\Delta(G)\le n-3$. Assume $\Delta(G)=n-3$. Then $|V(G-V_1)|=p-(n-2)=r+1<n$, $\Delta(G-V_1)\le n-3$ and so $e(G-V_1)\le\min\{\binom{r+1}{2},\frac{(r+1)(n-3)}{2}\}$. Since $e(G[V_1])\le\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}-s$ by (3.2), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} e(G)&=e(G[V_1])+e(V_1V_1')+e(G-V_1)\\ &\le\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}-s+s+\min\Big\{\frac{r(r+1)}{2},\frac{(r+1)(n-3)}{2}\Big\}\\ &=\begin{cases}\dfrac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}+\dbinom{r+1}{2} & \text{if } r\le n-3\\[2mm] \dfrac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}+\dfrac{(n-3)(n-1)}{2} & \text{if } r=n-2\end{cases}\\ &<\binom{n-1}{2}+\binom{r}{2}=e(K_{n-1}\cup K_r). \end{aligned}$$

This is impossible since G is an extremal graph. Thus, $\Delta(G) \le n-4$ for $p < 2n-2$. Now the proof is complete.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \ge n \ge 7$ and $G \in Ex(p; T_n^2)$. Suppose that G is connected. Then $p < 2n-2$.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.1, we have $\Delta(G) \le n-3$ and so $e(G) \le \frac{(n-3)p}{2}$. Assume that $p = k(n-1)+r$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-2\}$. Let $G_1 \in \mathrm{Ex}(n-1+r; K_{1,n-3})$. Then $e(G_1) = [\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}]$ by Lemma 2.1. Hence, if $(k-2)(n-1)-r \ge 2$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
e((k-1)K_{n-1} \cup G_1) &= (k-1)\binom{n-1}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}\Big] \\
&= \frac{(p-r-(n-1))(n-2)}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}\Big] \\
&= \Big[\frac{(n-3)p}{2} + \frac{p-2r-2(n-1)}{2}\Big] \\
&= \Big[\frac{(n-3)p}{2} + \frac{(k-2)(n-1)-r}{2}\Big] > \Big[\frac{(n-3)p}{2}\Big] \ge e(G).
\end{aligned}$$

This is impossible since $(k-1)K_{n-1} \cup G_1$ does not contain T_n^2 as a subgraph and $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^2)$. Thus $(k-2)(n-1)-r \le 1$. If $k=3$, then $r = n-2$ and $p = 3(n-1)+n-2 = 4n-5$ and so

$$\begin{aligned}
e(G) &\le \Big[\frac{(n-3)p}{2}\Big] \le \frac{(n-3)(4n-5)}{2} = \frac{4n^2-17n+15}{2} \\
&< \frac{4n^2-14n+12}{2} = 3\binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{n-2}{2} = e(3K_{n-1} \cup K_{n-2}).
\end{aligned}$$

Since $3K_{n-1} \cup K_{n-2}$ does not contain T_n^2 and $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^2)$, we get a contradiction. Thus $k \le 2$.

For $p = 2(n-1)+r$ with $r \in \{0, 1, 2, n-4, n-3, n-2\}$ we see that $r(n-2-r) < 2n-2$ and so $e(2K_{n-1} \cup K_r) = \frac{2(n-1)(n-2)+r(r-1)}{2} > \frac{(n-3)(2n-2+r)}{2} \ge e(G)$. This contradicts the assumption $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^2)$. Now suppose $p = 2(n-1)+r$ with $3 \le r \le n-5$. If $\Delta(G) \le n-4$, then $e(G) \le \frac{(n-4)p}{2}$. From previous argument we have

$$\begin{aligned}
e(K_{n-1} \cup G_1) &= \binom{n-1}{2} + \Big[\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}\Big] = \Big[\frac{(n-3)p-r}{2}\Big] \\
&= \Big[\frac{(n-4)p}{2}\Big] + n - 1 > \frac{(n-4)p}{2} \ge e(G).
\end{aligned}$$

Since $K_{n-1} \cup G_1$ does not contain T_n^2 as a subgraph and $G \in \mathrm{Ex}(p; T_n^2)$, we get a contradiction. Hence $\Delta(G) = n-3$. Suppose $v_0 \in V(G)$, $d(v_0) = n-3$, $\Gamma(v_0) = \{v_1, \dots, v_{n-3}\}$, $V_1 = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-3}\}$ and $V_1' = V(G) - V_1$. Suppose also that there are exactly s vertices in $\Gamma(v_0)$ adjacent to some vertex in V_1'. Then $1 \le s \le n-3$. By (3.2), $e(G[V_1]) \le \frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2} - s$. As G does not contain any copies of T_n^2, we see that $e(V_1 V_1') = s$. Since $|V(G - V_1)| = |V_1'| = p - (n-2) = n + r$ and $G - V_1$ does not contain any copies of T_n^2 we see that $e(G - V_1) \le \mathrm{ex}(n+r; T_n^2)$.

We claim that

$$\mathrm{ex}(n+r; T_n^2) \le \max\Big\{\frac{(n-4)(n+r)}{2}, \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+r(r+1)}{2}\Big\}$$

for $3 \le r \le n-5$. Let $G' \in \mathrm{Ex}(n+r; T_n^2)$. If G' is connected, using Lemma 3.1 we have $\Delta(G') \le n-4$ and so $e(G') \le \frac{(n-4)(n+r)}{2}$. Now suppose that G' is not connected. If $n_1, n_2 \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-2\}$, from Lemma 2.3 we have $e(K_{n_1} \cup K_{n_2}) < e(K_{n_1+n_2})$ for $n_1+n_2 < n$ and $e(K_{n_1} \cup K_{n_2}) < e(K_{n-1} \cup K_{n_1+n_2-(n-1)})$ for $n_1+n_2 \ge n$. Thus, $G' = G_1' \cup G_2'$, where G_1' and G_2' are components of G' with $|V(G_1')| = p_1' < n-1$ and $|V(G_2')| = p_2' \ge n-1$. For $p_2' \ge n$ we have $p_1' \le r \le n-3$ and so $e(G_1') = \frac{p_1'(p_1'-1)}{2} \le \frac{(n-4)p_1'}{2}$. For $p_2' \ge n$ we also have $\Delta(G_2') \le n-4$ and so $e(G_2') \le \frac{(n-4)p_2'}{2}$ by Lemma 3.1. Hence for $p_2' \ge n$ we find that $e(G') = e(G_1') + e(G_2') \le \frac{(n-4)p_1'}{2} + \frac{(n-4)p_2'}{2} = \frac{(n-4)(n+r)}{2}$. Now assume $p_2' = n-1$. Then $p_1' = r+1$ and

$$e(G') = e(K_{n-1} \cup K_{r+1}) = \frac{(n-1)(n-2) + r(r+1)}{2}.$$

Hence the claim is true and so

$$e(G - V_1) \le \mathrm{ex}(n+r; T_n^2) \le \max\Big\{\frac{(n-4)(n+r)}{2}, \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+r(r+1)}{2}\Big\}.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e(G[V_1]) + e(V_1V_1') + e(G - V_1) \\ &\le \frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2} - s + s + \max\Big\{\frac{(n-4)(n+r)}{2}, \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+r(r+1)}{2}\Big\} \\ &= \binom{n-1}{2} + \max\Big\{\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)-n}{2}, \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+r(r-1)}{2} - (n-2-r)\Big\} \\ &< \binom{n-1}{2} + \max\Big\{\Big[\frac{(n-4)(n-1+r)}{2}\Big], \frac{(n-1)(n-2)+r(r-1)}{2}\Big\} \\ &= \max\Big\{e(K_{n-1} \cup G_1), e(2K_{n-1} \cup K_r)\Big\}. \end{aligned}$$

This is impossible since G is an extremal graph.

By the above we must have $k = 1$ and so $p = k(n-1) + r < 2n-2$ as asserted.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \ge n \ge 7$ and $G \in Ex(p; T_n^2)$. Suppose that G is connected. Then $\Delta(G) = n-4$ and $e(G) = [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$.*

Proof. By (3.1), $e(G) \ge [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$. If $\Delta(G) \le n-5$, using Euler's theorem we see that $e(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v) \le \frac{(n-5)p}{2}$. Hence $\frac{(n-4)p-1}{2} \le [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}] \le e(G) \le \frac{(n-5)p}{2}$. This is impossible. Thus $\Delta(G) \ge n-4$. By Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2, $\Delta(G) \le n-4$. Therefore $\Delta(G) = n-4$ and so $e(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v) \le \frac{(n-4)p}{2}$. Recall that $e(G) \ge [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$. Then $e(G) = [\frac{(n-4)p}{2}]$ as asserted.

Lemma 3.4. *Let p and k be nonnegative integers, $p = 5k + r$ and $r \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Suppose that G is a graph of order p without T_6^2. Then $e(G) \le 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$.*

Proof. Clearly $\Delta(T_6^2) = 3$. We prove the lemma by induction on p. For $p \le 5$ we have $e(G) \le \frac{p(p-1)}{2} = 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. Now suppose that $p \ge 6$ and the lemma is true for all graphs of order $p_0 < p$ without T_6^2. If $\Delta(G) \le 3$, then $e(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v) \le \frac{3p}{2} \le 2p - 3 \le 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$.

Suppose $\Delta(G) = m \ge 4$, $v_0 \in V(G)$, $d(v_0) = m$, $\Gamma(v_0) = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$, $V_1 = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ and $V_1' = V(G) - V_1$. If $G[V_1]$ is a component of G, then $e(G[V_1]) = e(K_5) = 10$ for $m = 4$, and $e(G[V_1]) \le m + \frac{m}{2} = \frac{3m}{2}$ for $m \ge 5$ since $d(v_i) \le 2$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$. By the inductive hypothesis, $e(G[V_1']) \le 2(p - m - 1) - \frac{r_1(5-r_1)}{2}$, where $r_1 \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ is given by $p - m - 1 \equiv r_1 \pmod 5$. Thus, for $m = 4$ we have $e(G) = e(G[V_1]) + e(G[V_1']) \le 10 + 2(p - 5) - \frac{r(5-r)}{2} = 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$, and for $m \ge 5$ we have $e(G) = e(G[V_1]) + e(G[V_1']) \le \frac{3m}{2} + 2(p - m - 1) - \frac{r_1(5-r_1)}{2} \le 2p - 2 - \frac{m}{2} \le 2p - 3 \le 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$.

From now on we assume that $G[V_1]$ is not a component of G and $m = \Delta(G) \ge 4$. Hence there is a vertex u_1 such that $d(u_1, v_0) = 2$ and $u_1v_1 \in E(G)$ with no loss of generality. Then $v_1v_i \notin E(G)$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots, m$. For $m = 4$ we see that $e(G[V_1]) + e(V_1V_1') \le 4 + 4 = 8$. For $m \ge 5$ we see that $d(v_i) \le 2$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and so $e(G[V_1]) + e(V_1V_1') \le \sum_{i=1}^{m} d(v_i) \le 2m$. Hence, for $m \ge 4$ we have $e(G) = e(G[V_1]) + e(V_1V_1') + e(G[V_1']) \le 2m + e(G[V_1'])$. By the inductive hypothesis, $e(G[V_1']) \le 2(p - m - 1) - \frac{r_1(5-r_1)}{2}$, where $r_1 \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ is given by $p - m - 1 \equiv r_1 \pmod 5$. Thus, $e(G) \le 2m + 2(p - m - 1) - \frac{r_1(5-r_1)}{2} = 2p - 2 - \frac{r_1(5-r_1)}{2}$. For $r_1 \ge 1$ we have $e(G) \le 2p - 2 - 2 < 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. For $r_1 = 0$ and $r = 0, 1, 4$ we have $e(G) \le 2p - 2 \le 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. Therefore, we only need to consider the case $p \equiv m + 1 \equiv 2, 3 \pmod 5$.

Now assume $p \equiv m + 1 \equiv 2, 3 \pmod 5$ and $\Gamma(u_1) - \{v_1, \ldots, v_m\} = \{w_1, \ldots, w_t\}$. As $m \ge 4$ we have $m \ge 6$. Set $V_2 = \{v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_m, u_1\}$ and $V_2' = V(G) - V_2$. Since $d(v_i) \le 2$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$, we see that

$$e(G) = e(G[V_2]) + e(V_2V_2') + e(G[V_2']) \le \sum_{i=1}^{m} d(v_i) + t + e(G[V_2']) \le 2m + t + e(G[V_2']).$$

Note that $p - m - 2 \equiv 4 \pmod 5$ and $e(G[V_2']) \le 2(p - m - 2) - \frac{4(5-4)}{2}$ by the inductive hypothesis. We then have $e(G) \le 2m + t + 2(p - m - 2) - 2 = 2p + t - 6$. For $t \le 3$ we get $e(G) \le 2p + t - 6 \le 2p - 3 = 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. For $t \ge 4$ set $V_3 = \{v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_m, u_1, w_1, \ldots, w_t\}$ and $V_3' = V(G) - V_3$. Since $d(v_i) \le 2$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ and $d(w_j) \le 2$ for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, t$, using the inductive hypothesis we see that

$$\begin{aligned} e(G) &= e(G[V_3]) + e(V_3V_3') + e(G[V_3']) \le \sum_{i=1}^{m} d(v_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{t} d(w_j) + e(G[V_3']) \\ &\le 2m + 2t + e(G[V_3']) \le 2m + 2t + 2(p - m - 2 - t) = 2p - 4 \\ &< 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

By the above, the lemma has been proved by induction.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \ge n - 1 \ge 4$ and $p = k(n-1) + r$, where $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} ex(p; T_n^2) &= \max\Big\{\Big[\frac{(n-2)p}{2}\Big] - (n - 1 + r), \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2}\Big\} \\ &= \begin{cases} [\frac{(n-2)p}{2}] - (n - 1 + r) & \text{if } n \ge 16 \text{ and } 3 \le r \le n - 6 \text{ or if } \\ & \quad 13 \le n \le 15 \text{ and } 4 \le r \le n - 7, \\ \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Clearly $\mathrm{ex}(n-1; T_n^2) = e(K_{n-1}) = \frac{(n-2)(n-1)}{2}$. Thus the result is true for $p = n-1$. Now we assume $p \ge n$. Since $T_5^2 \cong T_5'$, taking $n = 5$ in [10, Theorem 3.1] we obtain the result in the case $n = 5$. For $n = 6$ we see that $\mathrm{ex}(p; T_6^2) \geq e(kK_5 \cup K_r) = 10k + \frac{r(r-1)}{2} = 2p - \frac{r(5-r)}{2}$. This together with Lemma 3.4 gives the result in this case. Applying Lemmas 3.3, 2.3 and replacing T_n^1 with T_n^2 in the proof of Theorem 2.1 we deduce the result for $n \geq 7$.

Corollary 3.1. *Suppose $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \geq n \geq 5$ and $n - 1 \nmid p$. Then* $\frac{(n-2)p}{2} - \frac{(n-1)^2}{8} \leq$ *$ex(p; T_n^2) \leq \frac{(n-2)(p-1)}{2}$.*

4. The Ramsey number $r(T_n^i, T_n)$

Lemma 4.1 ([9, Lemma 2.1]). *Let G_1 and G_2 be two graphs. Suppose $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \geq max\{|V(G_1)|, |V(G_2)|\}$ and $ex(p; G_1) + ex(p; G_2) < \binom{p}{2}$. Then $r(G_1, G_2) \leq p$.*

Proof. Let G be a graph of order p. If $e(G) \leq \mathrm{ex}(p; G_1)$ and $e(\overline{G}) \leq \mathrm{ex}(p; G_2)$, then $\mathrm{ex}(p; G_1) + \mathrm{ex}(p; G_2) \geq e(G) + e(\overline{G}) = \binom{p}{2}$. This contradicts the assumption. Hence, either $e(G) > \mathrm{ex}(p; G_1)$ or $e(\overline{G}) > \mathrm{ex}(p; G_2)$. Therefore, G contains a copy of G_1 or $\overline{G}$ contains a copy of G_2. This shows that $r(G_1, G_2) \leq |V(G)| = p$. So the lemma is proved.

Lemma 4.2 ([9, Lemma 2.3]). *Let G_1 and G_2 be two graphs with $\Delta(G_1) = d_1 \geq 2$ and $\Delta(G_2) = d_2 \geq 2$. Then*

(i) $r(G_1, G_2) \geq d_1 + d_2 - (1 - (-1)^{(d_1-1)(d_2-1)})/2$.

(ii) *Suppose that G_1 is a connected graph of order m and $d_1 < d_2 \leq m$. Then $r(G_1, G_2) \geq 2d_2 - 1 \geq d_1 + d_2$.*

(iii) *If G_1 is a connected graph of order m, $d_1 \neq m - 1$ and $d_2 > m$, then $r(G_1, G_2) \geq d_1 + d_2$.*

Theorem 4.1. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$.*

(i) *If n is odd with $n \geq 17$, then $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) = 2n - 7$.*

(ii) *If n is even with $n \geq 12$, then $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) = 2n - 6$.*

Proof. Suppose $n \geq 12$. Since $\Delta(T_n^i) = \Delta(T_n^j) = n - 3$, from Lemma 4.2 we know that $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) \geq 2n - 7$ for odd n, and $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) \geq 2n - 6$ for even n. If n is odd with $n \geq 17$, using Theorems 2.1 and 3.1 (with $k = 1$ and $r = n - 6$) we see that

$$\mathrm{ex}(2n - 7; T_n^i) = \frac{(n-2)(2n-7) - 1}{2} - (2n - 7) < \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}\binom{2n-7}{2}$$

and so $\mathrm{ex}(2n - 7; T_n^i) + \mathrm{ex}(2n - 7; T_n^j) < \binom{2n-7}{2}$. Thus, by Lemma 4.1 we have $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) \leq 2n - 7$. Hence (i) is true. From Theorems 2.1 and 3.1 (with $k = 1$ and $r = n - 5$) we see that for $n \geq 12$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{ex}(2n - 6; T_n^i) &= \frac{(n-2)(2n-6) - 4(n-5)}{2} = n^2 - 7n + 16 \\ &< n^2 - \frac{13}{2}n + \frac{21}{2} = \frac{1}{2}\binom{2n-6}{2}\end{aligned}$$

and so $\mathrm{ex}(2n - 6; T_n^i) + \mathrm{ex}(2n - 6; T_n^j) < \binom{2n-6}{2}$. Thus, by Lemma 4.1 we have $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) \leq 2n - 6$. Hence $r(T_n^i, T_n^j) = 2n - 6$ for even n, proving (ii).

Lemma 4.3. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 5$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Let G_n be a connected graph of order n such that $ex(2n - 5; G_n) < n^2 - 5n + 4$. Then $r(T_n^i, G_n) \leq 2n - 5$.*

Proof. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, $\mathrm{ex}(2n - 5; T_n^i) = \frac{(n-2)(2n-5) - 3(n-4)}{2} = n^2 - 6n + 11$. Thus,

$$\mathrm{ex}(2n - 5; G_n) + \mathrm{ex}(2n - 5; T_n^i) < n^2 - 5n + 4 + n^2 - 6n + 11 = \binom{2n-5}{2}.$$

Appealing to Lemma 4.1 we obtain $r(T_n^i, G_n) \le 2n-5$.

Lemma 4.4 ([10, Theorem 3.1]). *Let $p, n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $p \ge n \ge 5$. Let $r \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$ be given by $p \equiv r \pmod{n-1}$. Then*

$$ex(p; T_n') = \begin{cases} [\frac{(n-2)(p-1)-r-1}{2}] & \text{if } n \ge 7 \text{ and } 2 \le r \le n-4, \\ \frac{(n-2)p - r(n-1-r)}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 4.2. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \ge 8$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Then $r(T_n^i, T_n') = r(T_n^i, T_n^*) = 2n-5$.*

Proof. Let $T_n \in \{T_n', T_n^*\}$. As $2K_{n-3}$ does not contain any copies of T_n^i and $\overline{2K_{n-3}} = K_{n-3,n-3}$ does not contain any copies of T_n, we see that $r(T_n^i, T_n) \ge 1 + 2(n-3) = 2n-5$. Taking $p = 2n-5$ and $r = n-4$ in Lemma 4.4 we find that

$$\text{ex}(2n-5; T_n') = \Big[\frac{(n-2)(2n-6)-(n-4)-1}{2}\Big] \le n^2 - \frac{11}{2}n + \frac{15}{2} < n^2 - 5n + 4.$$

By [10, Theorem 4.1],

$$\text{ex}(2n-5; T_n^*) = \frac{(n-2)(2n-5)-3(n-4)}{2} = n^2 - 6n + 11 < n^2 - 5n + 4.$$

Thus, applying Lemma 4.3 we obtain $r(T_n^i, T_n) \le 2n-5$. Hence $r(T_n^i, T_n) = 2n-5$ as asserted.

Remark 4.1 Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \ge 5$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. From [5, Theorem 3.1(ii)] we know that $r(K_{1,n-1}, T_n^i) = 2n-3$.

Theorem 4.3. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Then $r(P_n, T_n^i) = 2n-7$ for $n \ge 17$, $r(P_{n-1}, T_n^i) = 2n-7$ for $n \ge 13$, $r(P_{n-2}, T_n^i) = 2n-7$ for $n \ge 11$ and $r(P_{n-3}, T_n^i) = 2n-7$ for $n \ge 8$.*

Proof. Suppose $n \ge 8$ and $s \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$. From Lemma 4.2(ii) we have $r(P_{n-s}, T_n^i) \ge 2(n-3)-1 = 2n-7$. By (1.1),

$$\text{ex}(2n-7; P_{n-s}) = \begin{cases} \frac{(n-2)(2n-7)-5(n-6)}{2} = \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)+16-n}{2} & \text{if } s = 0, \\ \frac{(n-3)(2n-7)-3(n-5)}{2} = \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)+8-n}{2} & \text{if } s = 1, \\ \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)-(n-4)}{2} & \text{if } s = 2, \\ \frac{(n-5)(2n-7)-(n-5)}{2} = \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)+12-3n}{2} & \text{if } s = 3. \end{cases}$$

By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1,

$$\text{ex}(2n-7; T_n^i) = \begin{cases} [\frac{(n-4)(2n-7)}{2}] & \text{if } n \ge 16, \\ \frac{(n-2)(2n-7)-5(n-6)}{2} = \frac{(n-4)(2n-7)+16-n}{2} & \text{if } n < 16. \end{cases}$$

For $n \ge 17, 13, 11$ or 8 according as $s = 0, 1, 2$ or 3, from the above we find $\text{ex}(2n-7; P_{n-s}) + \text{ex}(2n-7; T_n^i) < \binom{2n-7}{2}$ and so $r(P_{n-s}, T_n^i) \le 2n-7$ by Lemma 4.1. This completes the proof.

5. The Ramsey number $r(T_m^i, T_n)$ for $m < n$

Proposition 5.1 (Burr[1]). *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $m \geq 3$ and $m-1 \mid n-2$. Let T_m be a tree on m vertices. Then $r(T_m, K_{1,n-1}) = m + n - 2$.*

Proposition 5.2 (Guo and Volkmann [5, Theorem 3.1]). *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}, m \geq 3$ and $n = k(m-1) + b$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $b \in \{0, 1, \ldots, m-2\} \setminus \{2\}$. Let $T_m \neq K_{1,m-1}$ be a tree on m vertices. Then $r(T_m, K_{1,n-1}) \leq m + n - 3$. Moreover, if $k \geq m - b$, then $r(T_m, K_{1,n-1}) = m + n - 3$.*

Lemma 5.1 ([6, Theorem 8.3, pp.11-12]). *Let $a, b, n \in \mathbb{N}$. If a is coprime to b and $n \geq (a-1)(b-1)$, then there are two nonnegative integers x and y such that $n = ax + by$.*

Theorem 5.1. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n > m \geq 5$, $m - 1 \nmid n - 2$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Then $r(T_m^i, K_{1,n-1}) = m + n - 3$ or $m + n - 4$. Moreover, if $n \geq (m-3)^2 + 1$ or $m + n - 4 = (m-1)x + (m-2)y$ for some nonnegative integers x and y, then $r(T_m, K_{1,n-1}) = m + n - 3$ for any tree $T_m \neq K_{1,m-1}$ of order m.*

Proof. Let $T_m \neq K_{1,m-1}$ be a tree on m vertices. From Proposition 5.2 we know that $r(T_m,\ K_{1,n-1}) \leq m + n - 3$. By Lemma 4.2(iii), $r(T_m^i, K_{1,n-1}) \geq m - 3 + n - 1$. Thus, $r(T_m^i, K_{1,n-1}) = m+n-3$ or $m+n-4$. If $n \geq (m-3)^2+1$, then $m+n-4 \geq (m-2)(m-3)$ and so $m+n-4 = (m-1)x+(m-2)y$ for some nonnegative integers x and y by Lemma 5.1. If $m + n - 4 = (m-1)x + (m-2)y$ for $x, y \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$, setting $G = xK_{m-1} \cup yK_{m-2}$ we see that G does not contain any copies of T_m and $\overline{G}$ does not contain any copies of $K_{1,n-1}$. Thus $r(T_m, K_{1,n-1}) \geq 1+|V(G)| = m+n-3$. Now putting all the above together we obtain the theorem.

Theorem 5.2. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n > m \geq 6$, $m - 1 \mid n - 3$ and $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Then $r(T_m^i, T_n') = m + n - 3$.*

Proof. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, $\text{ex}(m+n-3; T_m^i) = \frac{(m-2)(m+n-3)-(m-2)}{2} < \frac{(m-2)(m+n-3)}{2}$. Thus applying [9, Theorem 5.1] we obtain the conclusion.

Theorem 5.3. *Suppose $i \in \{1, 2\}$, $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n > m \geq 7$ and $m - 1 \nmid (n-3)$. Then $m + n - 5 \leq r(T_m^i, T_n') \leq m + n - 4$ and $m + n - 6 \leq r(T_m^i, T_n^*) \leq m + n - 4$. Moreover, if $n = k(m-1) + b = q(m-2) + a$, $k, q \in \mathbb{N}$, $a \in \{0, 1, \ldots, m-3\}$, $b \in \{0, 1, \ldots, m-2\}$ and one of the following conditions holds:*

(1) $b \in \{1, 2, 4\}$,

(2) $b = 0$ *and* $k \geq 3$,

(3) $n \geq (m-3)^2 + 2$,

(4) $n \geq m^2 - 1 - b(m-2)$,

(5) $a \geq 3$ *and* $n \geq (a-4)(m-1) + 4$,

then $r(T_m^i, T_n^*) = r(T_m^i, T_n') = m + n - 4$.

Proof. By Lemma 4.2 we have $r(T_m^i, T_n') \geq m-3+n-2$ and $r(T_m^i, T_n^*) \geq m-3+n-3$. Since $m - 1 \nmid n - 3$, we have $m - 1 \nmid m + n - 4$. From Corollaries 2.1 and 3.1 we find $\text{ex}(m+n-4; T_m^i) \leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$. Hence, by [9, Lemma 5.2] we have $r(T_m^i, T_n') \leq m+n-4$, and by [9, Lemma 4.2] we have $r(T_m^i, T_n^*) \leq m + n - 4$. Now applying [9, Theorems 4.4 and 5.4] we deduce the remaining assertion.

6. The Ramsey number $r(G_m, T_n^j)$ for $m < n$

Theorem 6.1. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 5$, $n \geq 8$, $n > m$ and $j \in \{1, 2\}$. Then $r(K_{1,m-1}, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$ or $m + n - 5$. Moreover, if $2 \mid mn$, then $r(K_{1,m-1}, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$.*

Proof. From Lemma 4.2 we deduce that $r(K_{1,m-1}, T_n^j) \geq m - 1 + n - 3 - (1 - (-1)^{(m-2)(n-4)})/2 = m+n-4-(1-(-1)^{mn})/2$. So, it suffices to prove that $r(K_{1,m-1}, T_n^j) \leq m + n - 4$. By Lemma 2.1, $\text{ex}(m + n - 4; K_{1,m-1}) = [\frac{(m-2)(m+n-4)}{2}]$. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, we have

$$\text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j) = \Big[\frac{(n-4)(m+n-4)}{2}\Big] \text{ or } \frac{(n-2)(m+n-4)-(m-3)(n-m+2)}{2}.$$

Since $[\frac{(m-2)(m+n-4)}{2}] + [\frac{(n-4)(m+n-4)}{2}] \leq \frac{(m+n-6)(m+n-4)}{2} < \binom{m+n-4}{2}$ and

$$\frac{(m-2)(m+n-4)}{2} + \frac{(n-2)(m+n-4)-(m-3)(n-m+2)}{2}$$
$$= \frac{(m+n-4)(m+n-5)-(m-4)(n-m-\frac{2}{m-4})}{2} < \binom{m+n-4}{2},$$

we see that $\text{ex}(m + n - 4; K_{1,m-1}) + \text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j) < \binom{m+n-4}{2}$ and so $r(K_{1,m-1}, T_n^j) \leq m + n - 4$ by Lemma 4.1. This completes the proof.

Theorem 6.2. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 4$, $n \geq 7$, $m - 1 \mid n - 4$ and $j \in \{1, 2\}$.*

(i) If G_m is a connected graph of order m with $ex(m + n - 4; G_m) \leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$, then $r(G_m, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$.

(ii) $r(T'_m, T_n^j) = r(T_m^1, T_n^j) = r(T_m^2, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$ for $m \geq 5$, $r(T_m^*, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$ for $m \geq 6$, and $r(P_m, T_n^j) = m + n - 4$.

Proof. Set $t = (n - 4)/(m - 1)$. Suppose that G_m is a connected graph of order m with $\text{ex}(m+n-4; G_m) \leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$. Then clearly $\Delta(\overline{(t + 1)K_{m-1}}) = t(m-1) = n-4$. Thus, $(t+1)K_{m-1}$ does not contain any copies of G_m and $\overline{(t + 1)K_{m-1}}$ does not contain any copies of T_n^j. Hence $r(G_m, T_n^j) \geq 1 + (t + 1)(m - 1) = m + n - 4$. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1,

$$\text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j) = \Big[\frac{(n-4)(m+n-4)}{2}\Big] \text{ or } \frac{(n-2)(m+n-4)-(m-3)(n-m+2)}{2}.$$

If $\text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j) = [\frac{(n-4)(m+n-4)}{2}]$, then

$$\text{ex}(m + n - 4; G_m) + \text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j)$$
$$\leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)+(n-4)(m+n-4)}{2} < \binom{m+n-4}{2}.$$

If $\text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j) = \frac{(n-2)(m+n-4)-(m-3)(n-m+2)}{2}$, then

$$\text{ex}(m + n - 4; G_m) + \text{ex}(m + n - 4; T_n^j)$$
$$\leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)+(n-2)(m+n-4)-(m-3)(n-m+2)}{2}$$
$$= \binom{m+n-4}{2} - \frac{(m-4)(n-m+1)}{2} < \binom{m+n-4}{2}.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 4.1 we always have $r(G_m, T_n^j) \le m+n-4$ and hence $r(G_m, T_n^j) = m+n-4$. This proves (i).

Now consider (ii). Note that $m+n-4 \equiv 1 \pmod{m-1}$. By (1.1), we have $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-4; P_m) = \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$. By Lemma 4.4, $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-4; T'_m) = \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$ for $m \ge 5$. By [10, Theorem 4.2], $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-4; T^*_m) = \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$ for $m \ge 6$. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-4; T^i_m) = \frac{(m-2)(m+n-5)}{2}$ for $i \in \{1,2\}$ and $m \ge 5$. Thus from (i) and the above we deduce (ii). The proof is complete.

Lemma 6.1. *Let $j \in \{1,2\}$, $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \ge 7$ and $m-1 \nmid n-4$. Assume $n = m+1 \ge 12$ or $n \ge \max\{m+2, 19-m\}$.*

(i) *If G_m is a connected graph of order m with $ex(m+n-5; G_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$, then $r(G_m, T_n^j) \le m+n-5$.*

(ii) *For $T_m \in \{P_m, T'_m, T^*_m, T^1_m, T^2_m\}$ we have $r(T_m, T_n^j) \le m+n-5$.*

Proof. Since $m+n-5 = n-1+m-4$, by Theorems 2.1 and 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T_n^j) &= \Big[\frac{(n-4)(m+n-5)}{2}\Big] \\ &\quad\text{or}\quad \frac{(n-2)(m+n-5)-(m-4)(n-1-(m-4))}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

If $n = m+1$, then $(m-4)(n-3-(m-4)) = 2(n-5)$. If $n \ge m+2$, then $3 \le m-4 \le n-6$ and so $(m-4)(n-3-(m-4)) = (\frac{n-3}{2})^2 - (m-4-\frac{n-3}{2})^2 \ge (\frac{n-3}{2})^2 - (n-6-\frac{n-3}{2})^2 = 3(n-6)$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{(n-4)(m+n-5)+m-2}{2} - \frac{(n-2)(m+n-5)-(m-4)(n-1-(m-4))}{2} \\ &= \frac{(m-4)(n-3-(m-4))-2n+m}{2} \\ &\ge \begin{cases} \frac{2(n-5)-2n+m}{2} = \frac{m-10}{2} > 0 & \text{if } n = m+1 \ge 12, \\ \frac{3(n-6)-2n+m}{2} = \frac{n-10+m-8}{2} > 0 & \text{if } n \ge \max\{m+2, 19-m\}. \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, from the above we deduce that

$$\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T_n^j) < \frac{(n-4)(m+n-5)+m-2}{2}. \tag{6.1}$$

Hence, if G_m is a connected graph of order m with $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; G_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}&\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; G_m) + \mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T_n^j) \\ &< \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2} + \frac{(n-4)(m+n-5)+m-2}{2} = \binom{m+n-5}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 4.1 we obtain (i).

Now we consider (ii). Since $m-1 \nmid (m+n-5)$, by Corollaries 2.1 and 3.1 we have $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T^i_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$ for $i \in \{1,2\}$. By (1.1), $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; P_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$. By Lemma 4.4, $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T'_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$. By [10, Theorems 4.1-4.5], $\mathrm{ex}(m+n-5; T^*_m) \le \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$. Thus, from the above and (i) we deduce (ii). This proves the lemma.

Theorem 6.3. *Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $j \in \{1,2\}$.*

(i) *We have*

$$r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) = \begin{cases} 2m-4 & \text{if } 2 \nmid m \text{ and } m \geq 9, \\ 2m-5 & \text{if } 2 \mid m \text{ and } m \geq 16. \end{cases}$$

(ii) *If* $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 7$, $n \geq max\,\{m+2, 19-m\}$ *and* $m-1 \nmid n-4$, *then* $r(T'_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5$.

Proof. We first assume $2 \nmid m$ and $m \geq 9$. By Lemma 4.2(i), we have $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) \geq m-2+m-2 = 2m-4$. By Lemma 4.4, $\mathrm{ex}(2m-4; T'_m) = \frac{(m-2)(2m-4)-2(m-3)}{2} = m^2-5m+7$. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, $\mathrm{ex}(2m-4; T^j_{m+1}) = \frac{(m-1)(2m-4)-4(m-4)}{2} = m^2-5m+10$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathrm{ex}(2m-4; T'_m) + \mathrm{ex}(2m-4; T^j_{m+1}) \\ &= m^2-5m+7+m^2-5m+10 = 2m^2-10m+17 < 2m^2-9m+10 = \binom{2m-4}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Lemma 4.1 we obtain $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) \leq 2m-4$ and so $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) = 2m-4$.

Now we assume $2 \mid m$ and $m \geq 16$. By Lemma 4.2(i), $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) \geq m-2+m-2-1 = 2m-5$. By Lemma 4.4, $\mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T'_m) = [\frac{(m-2)(2m-6)-(m-3)}{2}] = \frac{2m^2-11m+14}{2}$. By Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, $\mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T^j_{m+1}) = [\frac{(m-1)(2m-5)}{2}] - (2m-5) = \frac{2m^2-11m+14}{2}$. Thus,

$$\mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T'_m) + \mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T^j_{m+1}) = 2m^2-11m+14 < 2m^2-11m+15 = \binom{2m-5}{2}.$$

Hence, by Lemma 4.1 we obtain $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) \leq 2m-5$ and so $r(T'_m, T^j_{m+1}) = 2m-5$. This proves (i).

Now we consider (ii). Suppose $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 7$ and $n \geq \max\,\{m+2, 19-m\}$. By Lemma 6.1(ii), $r(T'_m, T^j_n) \leq m+n-5$. By Lemma 4.2, we have $r(T'_m, T^j_n) \geq m-2+n-3$. Thus, $r(T'_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5$. This proves (ii). The proof is complete.

Theorem 6.4. *Let* $j \in \{1,2\}$, $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 7$ *and* $m-1 \nmid n-4$. *Suppose* $n = m+1 \geq 12$ *or* $n \geq max\,\{m+2, 19-m\}$. *Assume that* $G_m \in \{P_m, T^*_m, T^1_m, T^2_m\}$ *or* G_m *is a connected graph of order* m *such that* $ex(m+n-5; G_m) \leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$. *If* $n \geq (m-3)^2+3$ *or* $m+n-6 = (m-1)x+(m-2)y$ *for some nonnegative integers* x *and* y, *then* $r(G_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5$.

Proof. If $n \geq (m-3)^2+3$, then $m+n-6 \geq (m-2)(m-3)$ and so $m+n-6 = (m-1)x+(m-2)y$ for some $x, y \in \{0,1,2,\ldots\}$ by Lemma 5.1. Now suppose $m+n-6 = (m-1)x+(m-2)y$, where $x, y \in \{0,1,2,\ldots\}$. Set $G = xK_{m-1} \cup yK_{m-2}$. Then $\Delta(\overline{G}) \leq n-4$. Thus, G does not contain any copies of G_m and $\overline{G}$ does not contain any copies of T^j_n. Hence $r(G_m, T^j_n) \geq 1+|V(G)| = m+n-5$. On the other hand, by Lemma 6.1 we have $r(G_m, T^j_n) \leq m+n-5$. Thus $r(G_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5$. This proves the theorem.

Corollary 6.1. *Let* $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 7$, $m-1 \mid n-b$, $b \in \{2,3,5\}$, $n \geq max\,\{m+2, 19-m\}$ *and* $j \in \{1,2\}$. *Assume that* $G_m \in \{P_m, T^*_m, T^1_m, T^2_m\}$ *or* G_m *is a connected graph of order* m *with* $ex(m+n-5; G_m) \leq \frac{(m-2)(m+n-6)}{2}$. *Then* $r(G_m, T^j_n) = m+n-5$.

Proof. Set $k = (n-b)/(m-1)$. Then $k \in \mathbb{N}$. For $b = 2$ we have $k \geq 2$. Since

$$m+n-6 = \begin{cases} (k-2)(m-1)+3(m-2) & \text{if } b = 2, \\ (k-1)(m-1)+2(m-2) & \text{if } b = 3, \\ (k+1)(m-1) & \text{if } b = 5, \end{cases}$$

the result follows from Theorem 6.4.

Theorem 6.5. *Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \geq 12$ and $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$. Then*

$$r(T_m^i, T_{m+1}^j) = r(T_m^*, T_{m+1}^j) = 2m - 5.$$

Proof. Let $T_m \in \{T_m^i, T_m^*\}$. By Theorems 2.1, 3.1 and [10, Theorem 4.1],

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T_m) &= \frac{(m-2)(2m-5) - 3(m-4)}{2}, \\ \mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T_{m+1}^j) &= \frac{(m-1)(2m-5) - 5(m-5)}{2} \text{ or } \left[\frac{(m-3)(2m-5)}{2}\right]. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\frac{(m-2)(2m-5)-3(m-4)}{2} + \frac{(m-3)(2m-5)}{2} = \frac{(2m-5)(2m-6)+7-m}{2} < \binom{2m-5}{2}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{(m-2)(2m-5) - 3(m-4)}{2} + \frac{(m-1)(2m-5) - 5(m-5)}{2} \\ &= 2m^2 - 12m + 26 < 2m^2 - 11m + 15 = \binom{2m-5}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

we see that $\mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T_m) + \mathrm{ex}(2m-5; T_{m+1}^j) < \binom{2m-5}{2}$. Hence, applying Lemma 4.1 we deduce that $r(T_m, T_{m+1}^j) \leq 2m-5$. Since $\Delta(T_m) = m-3$ and $\Delta(T_{m+1}^j) = m-2$, by Lemma 4.2(i) we have $r(T_m, T_{m+1}^j) \geq m-3+m-2 = 2m-5$. Hence $r(T_m, T_{m+1}^j) = 2m-5$. This proves the theorem.

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