

## A NOTE ON THE EXTENDED TOTAL GRAPH OF COMMUTATIVE RINGS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  a nonempty proper subset of  $R$ . In this paper, the extended total graph, denoted by  $ET_H(R)$  is presented, where  $H$  is a multiplicative-prime subset of  $R$ . It is the graph with all elements of  $R$  as vertices, and for distinct  $p, q \in R$ , the vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are adjacent if and only if  $rp + sq \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ . We also study the two (induced) subgraphs  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ , with vertices  $H$  and  $R \setminus H$ , respectively. Among other things, the diameter and the girth of  $ET_H(R)$  are also studied.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper  $R$  is a commutative ring with nonzero identity. Recently, there has been considerable attention in the work to associating graphs with algebraic structures (see [4],[5],[6], [8], [9] and [10]). Anderson and Badawi in [3] defined a nonempty proper subset  $H$  of  $R$  to be a *multiplicative-prime* subset of  $R$  if the following two conditions hold: (i)  $ab \in H$  for every  $a \in H$  and  $b \in R$ ; (ii) if  $rs \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R$ , then either  $r \in H$  or  $s \in H$ . They introduced the notion of the generalized total graph of a commutative ring  $GT_H(R)$  with the vertices of this graph are all elements of  $R$  and two vertices  $x, y \in R$  are adjacent if and only if  $x + y \in H$  where  $H$  is a *multiplicative-prime* subset of  $R$ . In this paper, we introduce an extension of the graph  $GT_H(R)$ , denoted by  $ET_H(R)$ , such that its vertex set consist of all

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elements of  $R$  and for distinct  $p, q \in R$ , the vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are adjacent if and only if  $rp + sq \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ , where  $H$  is a *multiplicative-prime* subset of  $R$ . Let  $ET_H(H)$  be the (induced) subgraph of  $ET_H(R)$  with vertex set  $H$ , and let  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  be the (induced) subgraph  $ET_H(R)$  with vertices consisting of  $R \setminus H$ . Obviously, the total graph  $GT_H(R)$  is a subgraph of  $ET_H(R)$ . It follows that each edge (path) of  $GT_H(R)$  is an edge (path) of  $ET_H(R)$ . The study of  $ET_H(R)$  breaks naturally into two cases depending on whether or not  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ . In the second section, we handle the case when  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ ; in the third section, we do the case when  $H$  is not an ideal of  $R$ . For every case, we characterize the girths and diameters of  $ET_H(R)$ ,  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ .

We begin with some notation and definitions. For a graph  $\Gamma$ , by  $E(\Gamma)$  and  $V(\Gamma)$ , we mean the set of all edges and vertices, respectively. We recall that a graph is connected if there exists a path connecting any two of its distinct vertices. At the other extreme, we say that a graph is totally disconnected if no two vertices of this graph are adjacent. The distance between two distinct vertices  $a$  and  $b$ , denoted by  $d(a, b)$ , is the length of a shortest path connecting them (if such a path does not exist, then  $d(a, b) = \infty$ ). We also define  $d(a, a) = 0$ . The diameter of a graph  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\text{diam}(\Gamma)$ , is equal to  $\sup\{d(a, b) : a, b \in V(\Gamma)\}$ . A graph is complete if it is connected with diameter less than or equal to one. The girth of a graph  $\Gamma$ , denoted  $\text{gr}(\Gamma)$ , is the length of a shortest cycle in  $\Gamma$ , provided  $\Gamma$  contains a cycle; otherwise,  $\text{gr}(\Gamma) = \infty$ . We denote the complete graph on  $n$  vertices by  $K^n$  and the complete bipartite graph on  $m$  and  $n$  vertices by  $K^{m,n}$  (we allow  $m$  and  $n$  to be infinite cardinals). For a graph  $\Gamma$ , the degree of a vertex  $v$  in  $\Gamma$ , denoted  $\text{deg}(v)$ , is the number of edges of  $\Gamma$  incident with  $v$ . We say that two (induced) subgraphs  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  of  $\Gamma$  are disjoint if  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  have no common vertices and no vertices of  $\Gamma_1$  is adjacent (in  $\Gamma$ ) to some vertex of  $\Gamma_2$ .

## 2. THE CASE WHEN $H$ IS AN IDEAL OF $R$

In this section, we study the case when  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ . It is clear that if  $H$  an ideal of  $R$ , then  $H$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . If  $H = R$ , then it is clear that  $ET_H(R)$  is a complete graph and  $ET_H(R)$  is disconnected when  $H = 0$  and  $|R| \geq 2$ . So we may assume that  $H \neq 0$  and  $H \neq R$ .

First we begin with the following example that shows  $ET_H(R) \neq GT_H(R)$ .

**Example 2.1.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_8$ . Set  $H = \{\bar{0}, \bar{4}\}$ . It is clear that  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Since  $\bar{7} + \bar{3} = \bar{2} \notin H$ , so  $\bar{7} - \bar{3}$  is not an edge in  $GT_H(R)$ . But  $\bar{1}(\bar{7}) + \bar{3}(\bar{3}) = \bar{0} \in H$  and  $\bar{1}, \bar{3} \in R \setminus H$ . Then  $\bar{7} - \bar{3}$  is an edge in  $ET_H(R)$ . Hence  $ET_H(R) \neq GT_H(R)$ .

The main goal of this section is a general structure theorem (Theorem 2.4) for  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  when  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ . But first, we record the trivial observation that  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ , the  $ET_H(H)$  is a complete subgraph of  $ET_H(R)$  and is disjoint from  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . Thus we will concentrate on the subgraph  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  throughout this section.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $ET_H(H)$  is a complete subgraph of  $ET_H(R)$  and is disjoint from  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . In particular,  $ET_H(H)$  is connected and  $ET_H(R)$  is disconnected.*

*Proof.* Let  $p, q \in H$ . Then it is clear that  $p + q \in H$  since  $H$  is an ideal of  $R$ . If  $x \in H$  is adjacent to  $y \in R \setminus H$ , then  $rx + sy \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ . This implies that  $sy \in H$ , so either  $y \in H$  or  $s \in H$  since  $H$  is a prime ideal which is a contradiction. The "in particular" state is clear.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then the following hold:*

- (1) *Suppose that  $G$  is an induced subgraph of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  and let  $x$  and  $y$  be distinct vertices of  $G$  that are connected by a path in  $G$ . Then there exists a path in  $G$  of length 2 between  $x$  and  $y$ . In particular, if  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is connected, then  $\text{diam}(ET_H(R \setminus H)) \leq 2$ .*
- (2) *Let  $x$  and  $y$  be distinct elements of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  that are connected by a path. If  $x + y \notin H$  then  $x - (-x) - y$  and  $x - (-y) - y$  are paths of length 2 between  $x$  and  $y$  in  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ .*

*Proof.* (1) Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  and  $x_4$  are distinct vertices of  $G$ . It suffices to show that if there is a path  $x_1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4$  from  $x_1$  to  $x_4$ , then  $x_1$  and  $x_4$  are adjacent. Now,  $r_1x_1 + r_2x_2, r'_2x_2 + r'_3x_3, r_3x_3 + r_4x_4 \in H$  for some  $r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r'_2, r'_3 \in R \setminus H$ . Hence  $(r_1r_3r'_2)x_1 + (r_2r'_3r_4)x_4 = r_3r'_2(r_1x_1 + r_2x_2) - r_2r_3(r'_2x_2 + r'_3x_3) + r_2r'_3(r_3x_3 + r_4x_4) \in H$ . Since  $H$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ , so  $r_1r_3r'_2, r_2r'_3r_4 \notin H$ . Then  $x_1$  and  $x_4$  are adjacent. So if  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is connected, then  $\text{diam}(ET_H(R \setminus H)) \leq 2$ .

(2) Since  $x, y \in R \setminus H$  and  $x + y \notin H$ , there exists  $z \in R \setminus H$  such that  $x - z - y$  is a path of length 2 by part (1) above. So  $rx + sz, s'z + r'y \in H$  for some  $r, s, r', s' \in R \setminus H$ . Therefore  $rs', r's \notin H$  since  $H$  is a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $rs'x - r'sy = s'(rx + sz) - s(s'z + r'y) \in H$  and  $x$  is adjacent to  $y$ . So  $x - (-x) - y$  and  $x - (-y) - y$  are paths of length 2 between  $x$  and  $y$  in  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ .  $\square$

Now, we give the main theorem of this section. Since  $ET_H(H)$  is a complete subgraph of  $ET_H(R)$  by Theorem 2.2, the next theorem gives a complete description of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . Let  $|H| = \alpha$ . We allow  $\alpha$  to be infinite cardinal. Compare the next theorem with [3, Theorem 2.2].

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$  and let  $|H| = \alpha$ .*

(1) *If  $r + s \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ , then  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is the union of complete subgraphs.*

(2) *If  $r + s \notin H$  for all  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ , then  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is the union of totally disconnected subgraphs and some connected subgraphs.*

*Proof.* (1) Suppose that  $r + s \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ . For  $x, x' \in R \setminus H$ , we write  $x \sim x'$  if and only if  $tx + t'x' \in H$  and  $t + t' \in H$  for some  $t, t' \in R \setminus H$ . It is straightforward to check that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $R \setminus H$ , since  $H$  is a prime ideal. For  $x \in R \setminus H$ , we denote the equivalence class which contains  $x$  by  $[x]$ . Now let  $x \in R \setminus H$ . If  $[x] = \{x\}$ , then  $r(x + h_1) + s(x + h_2) = (r + s)x + rh_1 + sh_2 \in H$  for every  $h_1, h_2 \in H$  since  $r + s \in H$ . Then  $x + H$  is a complete subgraph of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  with at most  $\alpha$  vertices. Now let  $|[x]| = \nu$  and  $x' \in [x]$ . Then  $tx + t'x' \in H$  and  $t + t' \in H$  for some  $t, t' \in R \setminus H$ . So  $t(x + h_1) + t'(x' + h_2) = tx + t'x' + th_1 + t'h_2 \in H$  for every  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ . Thus  $x + H$  is a part of complete graph  $k^\mu$  where  $\mu \leq \alpha\nu$ .

(2) Assume that  $r + s \notin H$  for all  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ . Set

$$A_x = \{x' \in R \setminus H : rx + sx' \in H \text{ for some } r, s \in R \setminus H\}$$

be the set of all adjacent vertices to  $x$ . If  $A_x = \emptyset$ , then  $px + qx' \notin H$  for every  $x' \in R \setminus H$  and every  $p, q \in R \setminus H$ . In this case, we show that  $x + H$  is a totally disconnected subgraph of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . If  $r(x + x_1) + s(x + x_2) \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $x_1, x_2 \in H$ , then  $(r + s)x \in H$ . Since  $H$  is a prime ideal of  $R$  and  $x \notin H$ , then  $r + s \in H$  which is a contradiction. Therefore  $x + H$  is a totally disconnected subgraph of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . Now, we may assume that  $A_x \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $rx + sx' \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $x' \in R \setminus H$ . Hence  $r(x + h_1) + s(x' + h_2) = rx + sx' + rh_1 + sh_2 \in H$  for every  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ ; hence each element of  $x + H$  is adjacent to each element of  $x' + H$ . If  $|A_x| = \nu$ , then we have a connected subgraph of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  with at most  $\alpha\nu$  vertices. So  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is the union of totally disconnected subgraphs and some connected subgraphs.  $\square$

Now it is easy to compute the girth of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  using Theorem 2.4.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ . Then  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 3, 4$  or  $\infty$ . In particular,  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) \leq 4$  if  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  contains a cycle.*

*Proof.* Let  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  contains a cycle. Then  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is not a totally disconnected graph, so by the proof of Theorem 2.4,  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  has either a complete or a complete bipartite subgraph. Therefore it must contain either a 3-cycle or 4-cycle. Thus  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) \leq 4$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ .*

- (1)  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 3$  if and only if  $r + s \in H$  and  $|y + H| \geq 3$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $y \in R \setminus H$ .
- (2)  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 4$  if and only if  $r + s \notin H$  for every  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $px + qx' \in H$  for some  $x, x' \in R \setminus H$  and  $p, q \in R \setminus H$ .
- (3) Otherwise,  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = \infty$ .

*Proof.* (1) Assume that  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 3$ . Then by Theorem 2.4,  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is a complete graph  $K^\lambda$  where  $\lambda \geq 3$ . Then  $r + s \in H$  for some  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $|y + H| \geq 3$  for some  $y \in R \setminus H$  by Theorem 2.4. (2) If  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 4$ , then  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  has a complete bipartite subgraph. So  $r + s \notin H$  for every  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $px + qx' \in H$  for some  $x, x' \in R \setminus H$  and  $p, q \in R \setminus H$  by Theorem 2.4. The other implications of (1) and (2) follow directly from Theorem 2.4.  $\square$

We end this section with the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $H$  be a prime ideal of  $R$ .*

- (1)  $gr(ET_H(R)) = 3$  if and only if  $|H| \geq 3$ .
- (2)  $gr(ET_H(R)) = 4$  if and only if  $r + s \notin H$  for every  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ ,  $|H| < 3$  and  $px + qx' \in U$  for some  $x, x' \in R \setminus H$  and  $p, q \in R \setminus H$ .
- (3) Otherwise,  $gr(ET_H(R)) = \infty$ .

*Proof.* (1) This follows from Theorem 2.2. (2) Assume that  $gr(ET_H(R)) = 4$ . Since  $gr(ET_H(H)) = 3$  or  $\infty$ , then  $gr(ET_H(R \setminus H)) = 4$ . Therefore  $r + s \notin H$  for every  $r, s \in R \setminus H$  and  $px + qx' \in H$  for some  $x, x' \in R \setminus H$  and  $p, q \in R \setminus H$  by Theorem 2.6. On the other hand,  $gr(ET_H(R)) \neq 3$ ; so  $|H| < 3$ . The other implication follows from Theorem 2.4.  $\square$

3. THE CASE WHEN  $H$  IS NOT AN IDEAL OF  $R$ 

In this section, we study  $ET_H(R)$ , when the multiplicative-prime subset  $H$  is not an ideal of  $R$ . Since  $H$  is always closed under multiplication by elements of  $R$ , this just means that  $0 \in H$  and there are distinct  $x, y \in H$  such that  $x + y \in R \setminus H$ .

First we begin with the following example that shows  $ET_H(R) \neq GT_H(R)$ .

**Example 3.1.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ . Set  $H = 4\mathbb{Z} \cup 6\mathbb{Z}$ . It is clear that  $H$  is not an ideal of  $R$  since  $4, 6 \in H$ , but  $4 + 6 = 10 \notin H$ . So  $4 - 6$  is not an edge in  $GT_H(R)$ . But  $2(4) + 2(6) = 20 \in H$  and  $2 \in R \setminus H$ . Then  $4 - 6$  is an edge in  $ET_H(R)$ . Hence  $ET_H(R) \neq GT_H(R)$ .

Now, we have the following theorem that shows  $ET_H(H)$  is always connected (but never complete),  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  are never disjoint subgraphs of  $ET_H(R)$  and  $ET_H(R)$  is connected when  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is connected.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring such that  $H$  is a multiplicative-prime subset of  $R$  that is not an ideal of  $R$ . Then the following hold:*

- (1)  $ET_H(H)$  is connected with  $\text{diam}(ET_H(H)) = 2$ .
- (2) Some vertex of  $ET_H(H)$  is adjacent to a vertex of  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ . In particular, the subgraphs  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  are not disjoint.
- (3) If  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  is connected, then  $ET_H(R)$  is connected.

*Proof.* (1) Let  $x \in H^* = H \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $x$  is adjacent to  $0$ . Thus  $x - 0 - x'$  is a path in  $ET_H(H)$  of length two between any two distinct  $x, x' \in H^*$ . Moreover, there exist nonadjacent  $x, x' \in H^*$  since  $H$  is not an ideal of  $R$ ; thus  $\text{diam}(ET_H(H)) = 2$ .

(2) Since  $H$  is not an ideal of  $R$ , there exist distinct  $x, y \in H^*$  such that  $x + y \notin H$ . Then  $-x \in H$  and  $x + y \in H$  are adjacent vertices in  $ET_H(R)$ . Finally, the "in particular" statement is clear.

(3) Since  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$  are connected and there is an edge between  $ET_H(H)$  and  $ET_H(R \setminus H)$ , so  $ET_H(R)$  is connected.  $\square$

We determine when  $ET_H(R)$  is connected and compute  $\text{diam}(ET_H(R))$  with the following theorem. Compare the next theorem with [3, Theorem 3.2].

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring such that  $H$  is a multiplicative-prime subset of  $R$  that is not an ideal of  $R$ . Then  $ET_H(R)$  is connected if and only if for every  $x \in R$  there exists  $r \in R \setminus H$  such that  $rx \in \langle H \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $ET_H(R)$  is connected, and  $x \in R$ . Then there exists a path  $0 - x_1 - x_2 - \dots - x_n - x$  from  $0$  to  $x$  in  $ET_H(R)$ .

Thus  $r_1x_1, r_2x_1 + r_3x_2, \dots, r_{2n-2}x_{n-1} + r_{2n-1}x_n, r_{2n}x_n + sx \in H$  for some  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{2n}, s \in R \setminus H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} sr_1r_3r_5\dots r_{2n-1}x &= (r_1r_3r_5\dots r_{2n-1})(sx + r_{2n}x_n) - \\ &\quad (r_1r_3r_5\dots r_{2n-3}r_{2n})(r_{2n-2}x_{n-1} + r_{2n-1}x_n) + \dots \\ &\quad - (r_1r_3\dots r_{2n-2k-5}r_{2n-2k-3}r_{2n-2k}r_{2n-2k-2}\dots r_{2n})(r_{2n-2k-1}x_{n-k} + r_{2n-2k-2}x_{n-(k+1)}) \\ &\quad + (r_1r_3\dots r_{2n-2k-5}r_{2n-2k-2}r_{2n-2k}r_{2n-2k-2}\dots r_{2n})(r_{2n-2k-3}x_{n-(k+1)} + r_{2n-2k-4}x_{n-(k+2)}) \\ &\quad \dots - (r_2r_4r_6\dots r_{2n})(r_1x_1) \in \langle H \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Since  $H$  is a *multiplicative-prime* subset of  $R$ , so  $r = sr_1r_3r_5\dots r_{2n-1} \in R \setminus H$  and  $rx \in \langle H \rangle$ . Conversely, suppose that for every  $x \in R$  there exists  $r \in R \setminus H$  such that  $rx \in \langle H \rangle$ . We show that for each  $0 \neq x \in R$ , there exists a path in  $ET_H(R)$  from 0 to  $x$ . By assumption, there are elements  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \in H$  such that  $rx = h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_n$ . Set  $y_0 = 0$  and  $y_k = (-1)^{n+k}(h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_k)$  for each integer  $k$  with  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Then  $y_k + y_{k+1} = (-1)^{n+k+1}h_{k+1} \in H$  for each integer  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ . Also,  $y_{n-1} + rx = y_{n-1} + y_n = h_n \in H$ . Thus  $0 - y_1 - y_2 - \dots - y_{n-1} - x$  is a path from 0 to  $x$  in  $ET_H(R)$ . Now, let  $0 \neq x, y \in R$ . Then by the preceding argument, there are paths from  $x$  to 0 and 0 to  $y$  in  $ET_H(R)$ . Hence there is a path from  $x$  to  $y$  in  $ET_H(R)$ . So  $ET_H(R)$  is connected.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring such that  $H$  is a multiplicative-prime subset of  $R$  that is not an ideal of  $R$ , and let for every  $x \in R$  there exists  $r \in R \setminus H$  such that  $rx \in \langle H \rangle$ . Let  $n \geq 2$  be the least integer such that  $\langle H \rangle = \langle h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \rangle$  for some  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \in H$ . Then  $\text{diam}(ET_H(R)) \leq n$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x$  and  $x'$  be distinct elements in  $R$ . We show that there exists a path from  $x$  to  $x'$  in  $ET_H(R)$  with length at most  $n$ . By hypothesis,  $rx, r'x' \in \langle H \rangle$  for some  $r, r' \in R \setminus H$ , so we can write  $rx = \sum_{i=1}^n r_i h_i$  and  $r'x' = \sum_{i=1}^n s_i h_i$  for some  $r_i, s_i \in R$ . Define  $x_0 = x$  and  $x_k = (-1)^k(\sum_{i=k+1}^n r_i h_i + \sum_{i=1}^k s_i h_i)$ , so  $x_k + x_{k+1} = (-1)^k h_{k+1}(r_{k+1} - s_{k+1}) \in H$  for each integer  $k$  with  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ . On the other hand,  $rx + x_1 = (r_1 - s_1)h_1 \in H$  and  $r'x' + (-1)^n x_{n-1} = (s_n - r_n)h_n \in H$ . So  $x - x_1 - x_2 - \dots - x_{n-1} - x'$  is a path from  $x$  to  $x'$  in  $ET_H(R)$  with length at most  $n$  since  $1, (-1)^n \notin H$ .  $\square$

We end the paper with the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring such that  $H$  is a multiplicative-prime subset of  $R$  that is not an ideal of  $R$ . Then the following hold:*

- (1) *Either  $\text{gr}(ET_H(H)) = 3$  or  $\text{gr}(ET_H(H)) = \infty$ .*
- (2) *If  $\text{gr}(ET_H(R)) = 4$ , then  $\text{gr}(ET_H(H)) = \infty$ .*

*Proof.* (1) If  $rx + sx' \in H$  for some distinct  $x, x' \in H$  and  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ , then  $0 - x - x' - 0$  is a cycle of length 3 in  $ET_H(H)$ , so  $gr(ET_H(H)) = 3$ . Otherwise  $rx + sx' \in R \setminus H$  for all distinct  $x, x' \in H$  and all elements  $r, s \in R \setminus H$ . Therefore in this case, each nonzero element  $x \in H$  is adjacent to 0, and no two distinct  $x, x' \in H$  are adjacent. Thus  $gr(ET_H(H)) = \infty$ .

(2) If  $gr(ET_H(R)) = 4$ , then it is clear  $gr(ET_H(H)) \neq 3$ . So  $gr(ET_H(H)) = \infty$  by part (1) above.  $\square$

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