Abstract—Let $G$ be a graph of order $n$, and let $k \geq 2$ and $m \geq 0$ be two integers. Let $h : E(G) \to [0, 1]$ be a function. If $\sum_{e \in x} h(e) = k$ holds for each $x \in V(G)$, then we call $G[F_h]$ a fractional $k$-factor of $G$ with indicator function $h$ where $F_h = \{ e \in E(G) : h(e) > 0 \}$. A graph $G$ is called a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph if there exists a fractional $k$-factor $G[F_h]$ of $G$ with indicator function $h$ such that $h(e) = 0$ for any $e \in E(H)$, where $H$ is any subgraph of $G$ with $m$ edges. In this paper, it is proved that $G$ is a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph if $\delta(G) \geq k + m + \frac{m}{k-2}$. For any vertices $x$ and $y$ of $G$ with $d_G(x, y) = 2$, it is shown that the result in this paper is best possible in some sense.

Keywords—graph, degree condition, fractional $k$-factor, fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we consider finite undirected graphs without loops or multiple edges. Let $G$ be a graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. For any $x \in V(G)$, the degree and the neighborhood of $x$ in $G$ are denoted by $d_G(x)$ and $N_G(x)$, respectively. For $S \subseteq V(G)$, we denote by $G[S]$ the subgraph of $G$ induced by $S$, and $G - S = G[V(G) \setminus S]$. Let $S$ and $T$ be two disjoint vertex subsets of $G$, we use $e_G(S, T)$ to denote the number of edges with one end in $S$ and the other end in $T$. We denote the minimum degree and the maximum degree of $G$ by $\delta(G)$ and $\Delta(G)$, respectively. We define the distance $d_G(x, y)$ between two vertices $x$ and $y$ as the minimum of the lengths of the $(x, y)$ paths of $G$.

Let $k \geq 1$ be an integer. Then a spanning subgraph $F$ of $G$ is called a $k$-factor if $d_F(x) = k$ for each $x \in V(G)$. Let $h : E(G) \to [0, 1]$ be a function. If $\sum_{e \in x} h(e) = k$ holds for any $x \in V(G)$, then we call $G[F_h]$ a fractional $k$-factor of $G$ with indicator function $h$ where $F_h = \{ e \in E(G) : h(e) > 0 \}$. Zhou [11] introduced firstly the definition of a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph, that is, a graph $G$ is called a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph if there exists a fractional $k$-factor $G[F_h]$ of $G$ with indicator function $h$ such that $h(e) = 0$ for any $e \in E(H)$, where $H$ is any subgraph of $G$ with $m$ edges. A fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph is simply called a fractional $k$-deleted graph if $m = 1$.

Some people studied graph factors [2–6]. Yu and Liu [7] obtained a Fan-type condition for a graph to have a fractional $k$-factor. Liu and Zhang [8] gave a toughness condition for a graph to have a fractional $k$-factor. Cai and Liu [9] showed a stability number condition for graphs to have fractional $k$-factors. Zhou [10] obtained some sufficient conditions for graphs to have fractional $k$-factors. Zhou [1, 11] obtained two sufficient conditions for graphs to be fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graphs.

The following results on $k$-factors, fractional $k$-factors and fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graphs are known.

Theorem 1. ([12]). Let $G$ be a connected graph of order $n$ with $\delta(G) \geq k$, where $k$ is a positive integer, and $n \geq 8k^2 + 12k + 6$. If $G$ satisfies

$$\max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} \leq \frac{n}{2}$$

for any vertices $x$ and $y$ of $G$ with $d_G(x, y) = 2$, then $G$ has a $k$-factor.

Theorem 2. ([7]). Let $G$ be a connected graph of order $n$ with $\delta(G) \geq k$, where $k$ is a positive integer and $n \geq 8k^2 + 12k + 6$. If $G$ satisfies

$$\max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} \leq \frac{n}{2}$$

for any vertices $x$ and $y$ of $G$ with $d_G(x, y) = 2$, then $G$ has a fractional $k$-factor.

Theorem 3. ([11]). Let $k \geq 2$ and $m \geq 0$ be two integers. Let $G$ be a connected graph of order $n$ with $n \geq 9k^2 - 4\sqrt{2(k-1)^2 + 2} + 2(2k + 1)m$, $\delta(G) \geq k + m + \frac{(m+1)^2-1}{4n}$.

If

$$|N_G(x) \cup N_G(y)| \geq \frac{1}{2}(n + k - 2)$$

for each pair of nonadjacent vertices $x, y$ of $G$, then $G$ is a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph.

Theorem 4. ([11]). Let $k \geq 1$ and $m \geq 1$ be two integers. Let $G$ be a graph of order $n$ with $n \geq 4k - 5 + 2(2k + 1)m$.

If

$$\delta(G) \geq \frac{n}{2},$$

then $G$ is a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph.

In this paper, we proceed to study the fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graphs and obtain a Fan-type condition for a graph to be a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph. Our result is the following theorem which is an extension of Theorems 1 and 2.

Sizhong Zhou is with the School of Mathematics and Physics, Jiangsu University of Science and Technology, Mengxi Road 2, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu 212003, People’s Republic of China, e-mail: zsz_cunm@163.com.

Hongxia Liu is with the School of Mathematics and Informational Science, Yantai University, Yantai, Shandong 264005, People’s Republic of China, e-mail: mg77174@sina.com

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Theorem 5. Let $k \geq 2$ and $m \geq 0$ be two integers, and let $G$ be a graph of order $n$ with $n \geq 4k^2 + 2k - 6 + \frac{(4k^2 + 6k - 2)m - 2}{k}$. If $\delta(G) \geq k + m + \frac{m}{k+1}$ and
\[ \max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} \geq \frac{n}{2} \]
for any vertices $x$ and $y$ of $G$ with $d_G(x, y) = 2$, then $G$ is a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph.

Our result is stronger than Theorem 4 if $k \geq 2$ and the order $n$ is sufficiently large. Set $m = 0$ in Theorem 5. Then we get the following corollary.

Corollary 1. Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer, and let $G$ be a graph of order $n$ with $n \geq 4k^2 + 2k - 6$. If $\delta(G) \geq k$ and
\[ \max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} \geq \frac{n}{2} \]
for any vertices $x$ and $y$ of $G$ with $d_G(x, y) = 2$, then $G$ has a fractional $k$-factor.

Obviously, the result of Corollary 1 is stronger than Theorem 2 if $k \geq 2$.

II. THE PROOF OF THEOREM 5

The proof of Theorem 5 relies heavily on the following lemma.

Lemma 2.1. ([1]). Let $k \geq 1$ and $m \geq 0$ be two integers, and let $G$ be a graph and $H$ a subgraph of $G$ with $m$ edges. Then $G$ is a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph if and only if for any subset $S$ of $V(G)$
\[ k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \geq 0, \]
where $T = \{x : x \in V(G) \setminus S, d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \leq k - 1\}$.

Proof of Theorem 5. Suppose that $G$ satisfies the assumption of Theorem 5, but is not a fractional $(k, m)$-deleted graph. Then from Lemma 2.1, there exists some subset $S$ of $V(G)$ such that
\[ k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \leq -1, \]
where $T = \{x : x \in V(G) \setminus S, d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \leq k - 1\}$ and $H$ is some subgraph of $G$ with $m$ edges. It is easy to see that $d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \geq 0$ for any $x \in V(G)$.

Since $|E(H)| = m$, we have $\sum_{x \in T} d_H(x) - e_H(S, T) \leq 2m$.

Now, we prove the following claims.

Claim 1. $1 \leq |S| < \frac{n}{2}.$

Proof. If $S = \emptyset$, then from (1), $|S| + |T| \leq n$. Suppose that $S \neq \emptyset$ and $d_H(x) \leq m$ for any $x \in V(G)$, we get $-1 \geq \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) - k) \geq \sum_{x \in T} (d(x) - m - k) \geq 0$, a contradiction. Hence, $|S| \geq 1$.

On the other hand, according to (1), $|S| + |T| \leq n$ and $d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \geq 0$ for any $x \in V(G)$, we obtain
\[ -1 \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \geq k|S| - k|T| \geq k|S| - k(n - |S|) = 2k|S| - kn, \]
which implies $|S| < \frac{n}{2}$. This completes the proof of Claim 1.

Claim 2. $|T| > |S|.$

Proof. In terms of (1) and $d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \geq 0$ for any $x \in V(G)$, we have that $-1 \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \geq k|S| - k|T|$, which implies $|T| > |S|$. The proof of Claim 2 is complete.

Claim 3. $|T| \geq k + 1.$

Proof. Suppose that $|T| < k$. Then from (1), $\delta(G) \geq k + m + \frac{m}{k+1} \geq k + m$ and $d_H(x) \leq m$ for any $x \in V(G)$, we obtain
\[ -1 \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \geq |T||S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) \geq \sum_{x \in T} (\delta(G) - m - k) \geq 0, \]
which is a contradiction. This completes the proof of Claim 3.

Claim 4. $|S| < \frac{n}{2} - (k + m - 1).$

Proof. Suppose that $|S| \geq \frac{n}{2} - (k + m - 1)$. Then using (1), $|S| + |T| \leq n$ and $\sum_{x \in T} d_H(x) - e_H(S, T) \leq 2m$, we have
\[ -1 \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k) = k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - (\sum_{x \in T} d_H(x) - e_H(S, T)) \geq |T||S| - k|T| \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - 2m - k|S| \geq k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - 2m - k(n - |S|) = 2k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - 2m - kn \geq 2k\left(\frac{n}{2} - (k + m - 1)\right) + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - 2m - kn = -2k(k + m - 1) + \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) - 2m, \]
that is,
\[ \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) \leq 2k(k + m - 1) + 2m - 1. \]

Consequently, it follows from Claim 2 and $n \geq 4k^2 + 2k - 6 + \frac{(4k^2 + 6k - 2)m - 2}{k}$ that
\[ \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) \leq 2k(k + m - 1) + 2m - 1 \leq \frac{2(k(k + m - 1) + 2m - 1)}{k} \leq 1 - \frac{1}{k}. \]
Combining the inequalities above with Claim 3, we obtain
\[
\sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) \leq (1 - \frac{1}{k})|T| = |T| - \frac{1}{k}|T| < |T| - 1.
\] (2)

Set \(T_0 = \{ x : x \in T, d_{G-S}(x) = 0 \} \). Note that \(|T_0| \geq 2\) holds by (2). For each \(x \in T_0\), \(d_G(x) \leq |S| < \frac{n}{2}\) by Claim 1. Since \(T_0\) is an independent set of \(G\) and \(G\) satisfies the assumption of Theorem 5, the neighborhoods of the vertices in \(T_0\) are disjoint. Therefore, we obtain
\[
|S| \geq \left| \bigcup_{x \in T_0} N_G(x) \right| \geq \delta(G)|T_0|
\]
\[
\geq (k + m + \frac{m}{k + 1})|T_0| \geq (k + m)|T_0|.
\] (3)

Using (2) and the definition of \(T_0\), we have
\[
(1 - \frac{1}{k})|T| \geq \sum_{x \in T} d_{G-S}(x) \geq |T| - |T_0|,
\]
which implies
\[
|T_0| \geq \frac{1}{k}|T|.
\] (4)

According to (3) and (4), we get
\[
|S| \geq (k + m)|T_0| \geq (1 + \frac{m}{k})|T| \geq |T|.
\]

That contradicts Claim 2. This completes the proof of Claim 4.

Claim 5. \(e_G(S, T) \leq (k + m)|S|\).

Proof. Since \(d_{G-S}(x) \geq d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) \leq k - 1\) for each \(x \in T\) and \(d_H(x) \leq m\), we have \(d_{G-S}(x) \leq k + m - 1\) for each \(x \in T\). Combining this with Claim 4, we obtain
\[
d_G(x) \leq d_{G-S}(x) + |S| < \frac{n}{2}
\] (5)

for each \(x \in T\). From (5) and the assumption of Theorem 5, \(G[N_G(s) \cap T] \) is a complete induced subgraph of \(G\) for each \(s \in S\). Note that \(S \neq \emptyset\) by Claim 1. Thus, by \(d_{G-S}(x) \leq k + m - 1\) and \(|S| \geq (k + m)|T_0| \geq (1 + \frac{m}{k})|T| \geq |T|\), we have
\[
e_G(s, T) \leq \Delta(G[T]) + 1 \leq k + m.
\]

Hence, we obtain
\[
e_G(S, T) \leq (k + m)|S|.
\]

The proof of Claim 5 is complete.

According to (1), \(\sum_{x \in T} d_H(x) - e_H(S, T) \leq 2m, \delta(G) \geq k + m + \frac{m}{k+1}\), Claim 2, Claim 3 and Claim 5, we have
\[
-1 \geq \frac{n}{2} \geq |S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_G(x) - k) - 2m
\]
\[
= |S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_G(x) - k - e_G(S, T)) - 2m
\]
\[
\geq |S| + \sum_{x \in T} (\delta(G) - (k + m)|S| - 2m
\]
\[
\geq |S| + (k + m + \frac{m}{k+1} - k)|T| - 2m
\]
\[
- (k + m)|S| - 2m
\]
\[
= m(|T| - |S|) + \frac{m}{k+1}|T| - 2m
\]
\[
\geq 0,
\]

which is a contradiction. This completes the proof of Theorem 5.

III. REMARK

In Theorem 5, the bound in the assumption
\[
\max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} \geq \frac{n}{2}
\]

is best possible in the sense that we cannot replace \(\frac{n}{2}\) by \(\frac{n}{2} - 1\). We can show this by constructing a graph \(G = ktK_1 \cup (kt + 1)K_1\), where \(k \geq 2\) and \(m \geq 0\) are two integers and \(t\) is enough large positive integer. Then it follows that \(|V(G)| = n = 2kt + 1\) and
\[
\frac{n}{2} > \max\{d_G(x), d_G(y)\} = kt > \frac{n}{2} - 1
\]

for any two vertices \(x, y\) of \((kt + 1)K_1 \subset G\) with \(d_G(x, y) = 2\). Let \(S = V((kt + 1)K_1) \subset V(G)\), \(T = V((kt + 1)K_1) \subset V(G)\) and \(H\) is any subgraph of \(G\) with \(m\) edges. Then \(|S| = kt, |T| = kt + 1, d_G(S, T) = 0\) and \(\sum_{x \in T} d_H(x) - e_H(S, T) = 0\). Thus, we get
\[
k|S| + \sum_{x \in T} (d_{G-S}(x) - d_H(x) + e_H(x, S) - k)
\]
\[
= k^2t - k(kt + 1) = -k < 0.
\]

In terms of Lemma 2.1, \(G\) is not a fractional \((k, m)\)-deleted graph.

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