

# A Note on Edge-Domsaturation Number of a Graph

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## ABSTRACT

The edge-domsaturation number  $ds'(G)$  of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is the least positive integer  $k$  such that every edge of  $G$  lies in an edge dominating set of cardinality  $k$ . In this paper, we characterize unicyclic graphs  $G$  with  $ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G) + 1$  and investigate well-edge dominated graphs. We further define  $\gamma^r$ -critical,  $\gamma^{r+}$ -critical,  $ds^r$ -critical,  $ds^{r+}$ -critical edges and study some of their properties.

**Keywords:** Edge-Dominating Set; Edge-Domination Number;  $ds^r$ -Critical; Edge-Domsaturation Number; Well Edge Dominated Graph

## 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper,  $G$  denotes a graph with order  $p$  and size  $q$ . By a graph we mean a finite undirected graph without loops or multiple edges. For graph theoretic terms we refer Harary [1] and in particular, for terminology related to domination theory we refer Haynes *et al.* [2].

### 1.1. Definition

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. A subset  $D$  of  $E$  is said to be an edge dominating set if every edge in  $E-D$  is adjacent to at least one edge in  $D$ . An edge dominating set  $D$  is said to be a minimal edge dominating set if no proper subset of  $D$  is an edge dominating set of  $G$ . The edge domination number  $\gamma'(G)$  of a graph  $G$  equals the minimum cardinality of an edge dominating set of  $G$ . An edge dominating set of  $G$  with cardinality  $\gamma'(G)$  is called a  $\gamma'(G)$ -set or  $\gamma'$ -set.

Acharya [3] introduced the concept of domsaturation number  $ds(G)$  of a graph. For any graph  $G$  of order  $p$ , and for any integer  $r$  such that  $\gamma(G) \leq r \leq p$ , we call the set  $DC_r(G) = \{u \in V(G) / u \in D \text{ for some } D \in \mathcal{A}_r(G)\}$  the  $r$ -level domination core of  $G$ . We say that  $G$  is  $r$ -level domination-saturated (or in short, " $r$ -domsaturated") if  $DC_r(G) = V(G)$ . The domsaturation number  $ds(G)$  is then defined by  $ds(G) = \min\{r / G \text{ is } r\text{-domsaturated}\}$ . Arumugam and Kala [4] observed that for any graph  $G$ ,  $ds(G) = \gamma(G)$  or  $ds(G) = \gamma(G) + 1$  and obtained several results on  $ds(G)$ . We now extend the concept of domsaturation number of a graph to edges.

### 1.2. Definition

The least positive integer  $k$  such that every edge of  $G$  lies

in an edge dominating set of cardinality  $k$  is called the edge-domsaturation number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $ds'(G)$ .

If  $G$  is a graph with edge set  $E$  and  $D$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ , then for any edge  $e \in E-D$ ,  $D \cup \{e\}$  is also an edge dominating set and hence  $ds'(G) = \gamma'(G)$  or  $\gamma'(G) + 1$ .

Thus we have the following definition.

### 1.3. Definition

A graph  $G$  is said to be of class 1 or class 2 according as  $ds'(G) = \gamma'(G)$  or  $\gamma'(G) + 1$ .

### 1.4. Definition

An edge  $e$  of  $G$  is

- 1)  $\gamma'$ -critical if  $\gamma'(G-e) \neq \gamma'(G)$ ;
- 2)  $\gamma^{r+}$ -critical if  $\gamma'(G-e) > \gamma'(G)$ ;
- 3)  $\gamma^r$ -critical if  $\gamma'(G-e) < \gamma'(G)$ ;
- 4)  $\gamma'$ -fixed if every  $\gamma'$ -set contains  $e$ ;
- 5)  $\gamma'$ -free if there exists  $\gamma'$ -sets containing  $e$  and also  $\gamma'$ -sets not containing  $e$ ;
- 6)  $\gamma'$ -totally free if there is no  $\gamma'$ -set containing  $e$ .

We use the following theorem.

### 1.5. Theorem [5]

For any connected unicyclic graph  $G = (V, E)$  with cycle  $C$ ,  $\gamma'(G) = q - \Delta'(G)$  if and only if one of the following holds.

- 1)  $C = C_3$ ;
- 2)  $G = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$ ,  $\deg u_1 \geq 3$ ,  $\deg u_2 = \deg u_3 = 2$ ,  $\deg(u_i, w) \leq 2$  for all vertices  $w$  not on  $C$  and  $\deg w \geq 3$  for at most one vertex  $w$  not on  $C$ ;
- 3)  $G = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$ ,  $\deg u_1 \leq 3$ ,  $\deg u_2 \leq 3$ ,  $\deg u_3 = 2$

all the vertices not on  $C$  adjacent to  $u_1$  have degree at most 2 and all vertices whose distance from  $u_1$  is 2 are pendent vertices;

4)  $C = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$ ,  $\deg u_1 = 3$ ,  $\deg u_2 \leq 3$ ,  $\deg u_3 \leq 3$  and all vertices not on  $C$  are pendent vertices;

5)  $C = C_4$ ;

6)  $C = C_4$ , either exactly one vertex of  $C$  has degree at least 3 and all vertices not on  $C$  are pendent vertices.

## 2. Main Results

### 2.1. Lemma

An edge  $e$  of  $G$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical if and only if

$$\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$$

**Proof**

For any edge  $e$ , we observe that  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$  or  $\gamma'(G)$  or  $\gamma'(G) + 1$ . Now, suppose  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical. Then  $\gamma'(G - e) < \gamma'(G)$ . Hence  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$ . The converse is obvious.

### 2.2. Theorem

An edge  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical if and only if

$$N(e) \subset \cup_{f \in D - e} N(f) \tag{1}$$

for some  $\gamma'$ -set  $D$  containing  $e$ .

**Proof**

If  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical,  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$  by lemma 2.1. Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ . If  $S$  contains an edge of  $N(e)$ , then  $S$  will be an edge dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma'(G) \leq \gamma'(G - e)$ , a contradiction. Thus  $S$  does not contain any edge of  $N(e)$ . Since  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$ ,  $D = S \cup \{e\}$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$  and so Equation (1) holds. Conversely, suppose  $e$  is an edge such that (1) is true. Then  $G - e$  is an edge dominating set of  $G - e$  and hence  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$ . Thus  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical.

### 2.3. Theorem

Let  $G$  be a graph without isolated edges. An edge  $e$  in  $G$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical if and only if

- 1)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free, and
- 2) no  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$  contains any edge of  $N(e)$ .

**Proof**

If  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical, then  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) - 1$  by Lemma 2.1. As in theorem 2.2, if  $S$  is any  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ , then  $S$  will not contain any edge of  $N(e)$  and  $S \cup \{f\}$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$  for every  $f \in N[e]$ . This implies that  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free. Conversely, suppose (1) and (2) are true. Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ . By (2)  $S$  does not contain any edge of  $N[e]$ . Hence  $S$  cannot be an edge dominating set of  $G$ . But, for any edge  $f \in N[e]$ ,  $S \cup \{f\}$  is an edge dominating set of  $G$ . Since  $S$  is a minimum edge dominating set for  $G - e$ ,  $S \cup \{f\}$  is also a minimum edge dominating set for  $G$

and hence  $\gamma'(G) = |S \cup \{f\}| = \gamma'(G - e) + 1$ . Thus  $e$  is  $\gamma^-$ -critical.

### 2.4. Theorem

Let  $G$  be a graph and  $e \in E(G)$ . Then

1)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed if and only if there exists no edge dominating set of  $G - e$  with  $\gamma'(G)$  edges which is also an edge dominating set of  $G$ .

2)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free if and only if every  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ .

**Proof**

1) Assume that  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed. Suppose there exists an edge dominating set  $S$  of  $G - e$  with  $|S| = \gamma'(G)$  which is also an edge dominating set of  $G$ . Then  $S$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set not containing  $e$  which is impossible as  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed. The converse is obvious.

2) Let  $e$  be  $\gamma'$ -totally free. Then  $e$  does not belong to any  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$  and so every  $\gamma'$ -set  $D$  of  $G$  is an edge dominating set of  $G - e$ . Thus  $\gamma'(G - e) \leq \gamma'(G)$ . If  $\gamma'(G - e) < \gamma'(G)$ , then by theorem 2.3,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and so  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G)$ ,  $D$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ . The converse is obvious.

### 2.5. Theorem

Let  $G$  be a connected graph. If a cut edge  $e$  of  $G$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed, then  $e$  is  $\gamma^+$ -critical

**Proof**

Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ . Let  $e$  be a cut edge that is  $\gamma'$ -fixed. Then  $e$  belongs to every  $\gamma'$ -set. Since  $e$  is a cut edge,  $G - e$  is a disconnected graph with at least two components  $G'$  and  $G''$ . Let  $e'$  and  $e''$  be the neighbors of  $e$  in  $G'$  and  $G''$  respectively. Therefore  $D = (S - e) \cup \{e', e''\}$  is a minimum edge dominating set of  $G - e$  so that  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) + 1$ . Hence  $e$  is  $\gamma^+$ -critical.

### 2.6. Theorem

An edge  $e$  in a graph  $G$  is  $\gamma^+$ -critical if and only if

- 1)  $e$  is not isolated edge
- 2)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed and
- 3) There is no edge dominating set for  $G - N[e]$  having  $\gamma'(G)$  edges which also dominates  $N[e]$ .

**Proof**

If  $e$  is  $\gamma^+$ -critical, then  $\gamma'(G - e) = \gamma'(G) + 1$ , by lemma 2.1. Clearly  $e$  is not an isolated edge. If  $S$  is a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - N[e]$  having  $\gamma'(G)$  edges which also dominates  $N(e)$  then  $\gamma'(G - e) \leq \gamma'(G)$ , a contradiction. Thus no edge dominating set of  $G - N[e]$  having  $\gamma'(G)$  edges can dominate  $N(e)$ . By Theorem 2.4,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed. The converse is obvious.

We now investigate relationships between,  $\gamma'$ -free edges,  $\gamma'$ -totally free edges and graphs which are class 1 and class 2.

**2.7. Theorem**

If  $G$  is a graph without isolated edges, then  $G$  is of class 2 if and only if  $G$  has  $\gamma'$ -totally free edges.

**Proof**

Suppose  $G$  has a  $\gamma'$ -totally free edge  $e$ . By Theorem 2.4 (2),  $G$  is of class 2. Conversely, suppose  $G$  is of class 2. Then there exists an edge  $e$  which is not in any  $\gamma'$ -set. Hence every  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$  is also a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$  so that  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free.

**2.8. Theorem**

**Proof**

Let  $G$  be a connected graph. If  $G$  has a  $\gamma'$ -fixed edge, then it has a  $\gamma'$ -totally free edge.

Suppose  $G$  has a  $\gamma'$ -fixed edge  $e$ . Then  $e$  belongs to every  $\gamma'$ -set.

**Claim:** No neighbor of  $e$  belongs to any  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ . Suppose at least one of its neighbor say  $e'$  belongs to a  $\gamma'$ -set  $D$ . Let  $e = uv$  and  $e'$  be incident with  $u$ . Then  $D_1 = D - \{e\} \cup \{e''\}$ , where  $e''$  is any edge incident with  $v$  is an edge dominating set of  $G - e$  with  $\gamma'$ -edges which is also an edge dominating set of  $G$ . But by Theorem 2.6, this is a contradiction, since  $e$  is a  $\gamma'$ -fixed edge. Therefore no neighbor of  $e$  belongs to any  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ . Thus neighbors of  $e$  are all  $\gamma'$ -totally free in  $G$ .

We now investigate the class of graphs which are  $ds^{+}$ ,  $ds^{-}$ -critical.

**2.9. Lemma**

Let  $e \in E(G)$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free and  $G - e$  is of class 1, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) + 1$ .

**Proof**

Since  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free, by Theorem 2.4,

$$\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e) \tag{1}$$

Since  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free, by Theorem 2.3,  $G$  is of class 2 and so

$$ds'(G) = \gamma'(G) + 1 \tag{2}$$

Since  $G - e$  is of class 1, we have

$$ds'(G - e) = \gamma'(G - e) \tag{3}$$

From Equations (1), (2) and (3), we have

$$ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) + 1.$$

**2.10. Lemma**

Let  $e \in E(G)$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free and  $G - e$  is of class 2, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$ .

**Proof**

If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free, then by Theorem 2.4,

$$\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e) \tag{1}$$

Since  $G$  and  $G - e$  are of class 2, we have

$$ds'(G) = \gamma'(G) + 1 \tag{2}$$

and

$$ds'(G - e) = \gamma'(G - e) + 1 \tag{3}$$

From equations (1), (2) and (3), we have

$$ds'(G) = ds'(G - e).$$

**2.11. Lemma**

Let  $e$  be an edge of  $G$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and  $G - e$  is of class 1, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$  or  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) + 1$ .

**Proof**

Suppose  $e$  is a  $\gamma'$ -free edge. In any case  $G$  is either of class 1 or class 2.

**Case (1).**  $G$  is of class 1.

Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ . If  $S$  does not contain any neighbor of  $e$ , then every neighbor of  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free in  $G - e$ . This implies that  $G - e$  is of class 2. But this is a contradiction and so  $S$  must contain a neighbor of  $e$ . Then by theorem 2.4,  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e)$ . Since  $G$  and  $G - e$  are of class 1, we have

$$ds'(G) = \gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e) = ds'(G - e).$$

**Case (2).**  $G$  is of class 2.

Since  $G - e$  is of class 1, then by a similar argument,  $S$  must contain a neighbor of  $e$ . Since  $G$  is of class 2, we have  $ds'(G) = \gamma'(G) + 1 = \gamma'(G - e) + 1 = ds'(G - e) + 1$ .

**2.12. Lemma**

Let  $e$  be an edge of  $G$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and  $G - e$  is of class 2, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$ ,  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) + 1$  or  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) - 1$ .

**Proof**

**Case (1).**  $G$  is of class 1.

Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G - e$ . We have the following cases:

**Subcase (1).**  $S$  contains a neighbor of  $e$ .

Now  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e)$ . Since  $G$  is of class 1 and  $G - e$  is of class 2, we have  $ds'(G - e) = ds'(G) + 1$ .

**Subcase (2).**  $S$  does not contain a neighbor of  $e$ .

Now  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G - e) + 1$ . Since  $G - e$  is of class 2 and  $G$  is of class 1, we have  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$ .

**Case (2).**  $G$  is of class 2.

By an argument similar to that in case (1), we have  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$  or  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e) + 1$ .

**2.13. Lemma**

Let  $e$  be an edge of  $G$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed and  $G - e$  is of class 1, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G - e)$ .

**Proof**

If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed, then by Theorem 2.8, all of its neighbors are  $\gamma'$ -totally free. Then by Theorem 2.7,  $G$  is of

class 2 and hence

$$ds'(G) = \gamma'(G) + 1 \tag{1}$$

As  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed, by Theorem 2.4,  $\gamma'(G) \neq \gamma'(G-e)$ . If  $\gamma'(G) > \gamma'(G-e)$ , then  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -critical. Then by Lemma 2.11,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and this is a contradiction. Therefore  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) - 1$ . Since  $G$  is of class 2 and  $G-e$  is of class 1, we have  $ds'(G-e) = ds'(G)$ .

**2.14. Lemma**

Let  $e \in E(G)$ . If  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed and  $G-e$  is of class 2, then  $ds'(G) = ds'(G-e) - 1$ .

**Proof**

By an argument analogous to that in Lemma 2.13, since  $G-e$  is of class 2, we have  $ds'(G) = ds'(G-e) - 1$ .

**2.15. Theorem**

Let  $G$  be a graph without isolated edges. An edge  $e$  in  $G$  is  $ds^+$ -critical if and only if one of the following holds.

- 1)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free and  $G-e$  is of class 1.
- 2)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free,  $G$  is of class 2 and  $G-e$  is of class 1.
- 3)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and both  $G$  and  $G-e$  are of class 2.

**Proof**

Suppose  $e$  is  $ds^+$ -critical. Then

$$ds'(G) = ds'(G-e) + 1 \tag{1}$$

Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ . Then we have the following cases:

**Case (1).**  $G$  and  $G-e$  are of class 1.

By (1),  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) + 1$ . By theorem 2.3,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free and no  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G-e$  contains any edge of  $N(e)$ . Now every neighbor of  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -totally free in  $G-e$ . Therefore  $G-e$  is of class 2, which is a contradiction.

**Case (2).**  $G$  is of class 1 and  $G-e$  is of class 2.

Then Equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) + 2$ . But this is not possible.

**Case (3).**  $G$  is of class 2 and  $G-e$  is of class 1.

Then Equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e)$ . Then either  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free or  $\gamma'$ -totally free.

**Case (4).**  $G$  and  $G-e$  are of class 2.

In this case, Equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) + 1$ . Then by theorem 2.3,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free.

From Lemmas 2.9, 2.11 and 2.12, the converse is true.

**2.16. Theorem**

Let  $G$  be a graph without isolated edges. An edge  $e$  in  $G$  is  $ds^{++}$ -critical if and only if one of the following holds.

- 1)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free,  $G$  is of class 1 and  $G-e$  is of class 2.
- 2)  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed and  $G-e$  is of class 2.

**Proof**

Suppose  $e$  in  $G$  is  $ds^{++}$ -critical. Hence

$$ds'(G) = ds'(G-e) - 1 \tag{1}$$

Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $G$ . Then we have the following cases:

**Case (1).**  $G$  and  $G-e$  are of class 1.

From equation (1)  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) - 1$  and so  $G$  is  $\gamma^{++}$ -critical. Hence by Theorem 2.6,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed, which is a contradiction.

**Case (2).**  $G$  is of class 1 and  $G-e$  is of class 2.

Now equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e)$ . Then  $S$  must contain a neighbor of  $e$ . Since  $G$  is of class 1,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -free.

**Case (3).**  $G$  is of class 2 and  $G-e$  is of class 1.

Then Equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) - 2$ , which is not possible.

**Case (4).**  $G$  is of class 2 and  $G-e$  is of class 2.

In this case, Equation (1) becomes  $\gamma'(G) = \gamma'(G-e) - 1$ . Then by Theorem 2.4,  $e$  is  $\gamma'$ -fixed.

Conversely, suppose if (1) or (2) is true. Then by case (1) of Lemma 2.12 and Lemma 2.14, the result follows.

**3. Edge-Domsaturation Number of a Graph**

**Theorem**

For any connected unicyclic graph  $G = (V, E)$  with cycle  $C$ ,  $ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G) + 1$  if and only if one of the following holds.

- 1)  $C = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$ ,  $\deg u_1 \geq 3$ ,  $\deg u_2 \geq 3$ ,  $\deg u_3 = 2$ ,  $\deg u_{u \in N[u_1] \cap (V-C)} \leq 2$  and there exists  $w \in V-C$  such that  $d(u_i, w) \leq 2$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

- 2)  $C = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$ ,  $\deg u_1 \geq 4$ ,  $\deg u_2 = 2$ ,  $\deg u_3 = 2$ , exactly one vertex  $w$  not on  $C$  has  $\deg w \geq 2$  and remaining vertices are pendent vertices.

**Proof**

Suppose  $ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ .

Let  $C = C_k = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, u_1)$  be the unique cycle in  $G$ .

If  $C = C_k$ , then  $ds'(G) = \lceil q/3 \rceil < q - 1$  for all  $n \geq 3$  and so  $G \neq C_k$ .

Let  $S$  denote the set of all pendent edges of  $G$  and let  $|S| = t$ .

**Claim 1:**  $t \leq \Delta'(G) - 2$ . Since  $E - (S \cup \{e\})$  is an edge dominating set for any edge  $e$  of  $C$ ,  $\gamma'(G) \leq q - t - 1$ . For any pendent edge  $f$ ,  $E - (S \cup \{g, e\}) \cup \{f\}$  is an edge dominating set of  $G$  containing  $f$ . Here  $g$  is an edge adjacent to  $f$  and  $e$  is any edge of the cycle. Hence  $ds'(G) \leq q - t - 1$ , so that  $t \leq \Delta'(G) - 2$ .

**Claim 2:**  $e = uv$  is an edge with degree  $\Delta'$ . Then either  $u$  or  $v$  lies on  $C_k$ .

Now let  $G \neq C_k$  and  $e = uv$  be an edge of maximum degree  $\Delta'$ . If  $e \in C_k$ , then for some edge  $e' \in C_k$ ,  $G - e'$  is a tree  $T$  of  $G$  with at least  $(\Delta'(G) + 1)$  pendent edges. If  $X$  is the set of all pendent edges of  $G - e$ , then  $|X| \geq \Delta'(G) + 1$ . Then  $E(T) - X$  is an edge dominating set of cardinality at most  $q - \Delta'(G) - 1$ . Therefore  $ds'(G) < q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ , which is a contradiction.

**Case (1).**  $u$  or  $v$  lies on  $C$ .

**Claim 3:**  $G - C_k$  is the union of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Suppose not. Then,  $G - C_k$  contains  $P_k = x_1x_2 \cdots x_k, k \geq 3$ . Suppose  $u = u_1$  lies on  $C_k$ . Let  $T_{u_1}$  be the maximal tree rooted at  $u_1$  not containing any edge of  $C_k$ . Clearly  $T_{u_1}$  has at least  $\Delta'(G) - 2$  pendent edges, say  $S$ . Then  $E(G) - (S \cup \{u_1u_2, u_ku_1, u_ix_1\}), i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$  is an edge dominating set of cardinality less than  $q - \Delta'(G)$ . Therefore  $ds'(G) < q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ , which is a contradiction.

In this case,  $G$  has at least  $\Delta' - 2$  pendent edges. Let  $W$  be the set of these pendent edges. Further  $ds'(C_k) = \lceil k/3 \rceil$  and let  $Y$  denote a  $\gamma'$ -set of  $C_k$ . Let  $Z = E(C_k) - Y$ . If  $k > 4$ , then  $E(G) - W - Z$  is an edge dominating set of cardinality less than  $q - \Delta'(G)$ . Hence  $C_k = C_3$  or  $C_4$ . Since  $t \geq \Delta'(G) - 2$ . By claim 1,  $t = \Delta'(G) - 2$ .

**Subcase (1).**  $C = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$

$G - C_3$  is the union of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Also  $u$  or  $v$  lies on  $C$ . Let  $u = u_1$ . Therefore  $G - C_3$  contains at least one  $P_2$ . Since  $t = \Delta'(G) - 2$ , no other vertex other than  $u$  and  $v$  has degree  $> 3$ .

If  $G - C_3$  is the union of  $P_2$ 's alone, then  $\{x_1x_2, u_iu_j\}$  or  $\{u_1x_1, u_iu_j\}, i \neq j, j = 1, 2, 3$  is an edge dominating set and every edge lies in a  $\gamma'$ -set. Therefore  $ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G)$ .

If  $G - C_3$  is the union of  $P_1$ 's and  $P_2$ 's, then from Theorem 1.5,  $\gamma'(G) = q - \Delta'(G)$ . But pendent edges adjacent to  $u_1$  does not lie in any  $\gamma'$ -set. Therefore

$$ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G) + 1.$$

**Subcase (2).**  $C = C_4 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_1)$

As in subcase (1),  $G - C_4$  also contains  $P_2$ . Then  $E(G) - W - \{u_1u_2, u_1u_4, u_2u_3\}$  is an edge dominating set of cardinality  $< q - \Delta'(G)$ . Therefore  $ds'(G) < q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ .

**Case (2).**  $u$  and  $v$  lies on  $C$ .

**Claim 4:**  $G - C_k$  is the union of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

Suppose not. Then,  $G - C_k$  contains  $P_k = x_1x_2 \cdots x_k, k \geq 3$ . Suppose  $e = u_1u_2$  lies on  $C_k$ . Let  $T_{u_1u_2} = T_{u_1} \cup T_{u_2} \cup \{u_1, u_2\}$ .

Clearly  $T_{u_1u_2}$  has at least  $\Delta'(G) - 2$  pendent edges, say  $P$ .

Then  $E(G) - P - \{u_ix_1, u_ku_1, u_2u_3\}, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  is an edge dominating set of cardinality less than  $q - \Delta'(G)$ . Therefore  $ds'(G) < q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ , which is a contradiction.

As in case (1),  $t = \Delta'(G) - 2$ . Let  $e = u_1u_2$  be an edge of maximum degree.

**Subcase (1).**  $C = C_3 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_1)$

In this case, from Theorem 1.5, (3),  $u_3u_1$  does not belong to any  $\gamma'$ -set. Therefore  $ds'(G) = q - \Delta'(G) + 1$ .

**Subcase (2).**  $C = C_4 = (u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_1)$

From Theorem 1.5, there does not exist an edge dominating set of cardinality  $q - \Delta'(G)$ .

The converse is obvious.

## 4. Well-Edge Dominated Graph

A graph  $G$  is called well dominated if all minimal dominating sets have the same cardinality. This concept was introduced by Finbow, Hartnell and Nowakowski [6].

### 4.1. Definition

A graph  $G$  is well-edge dominated if every minimal edge dominating set of  $G$  has the same cardinality.

### 4.2. Lemma

If  $G$  is a well-edge dominated graph and  $e$  is an edge of  $G$ , then there exists a minimum edge dominating set containing  $e$  and a minimum edge dominating set not containing  $e$ .

#### Proof

To obtain an edge dominating set containing  $e$ , place  $e$  in the set  $D$ , delete  $N[e]$  from  $G$  and continue in this greedy fashion until there are no edges left. Then  $D$  is minimal and since  $G$  is well-edge dominated, it is minimum.

To obtain a minimum edge dominating set not containing  $e$ , we use the same greedy method except that we use a neighbor of  $e$  as our initial edge in  $D$ .

### 4.3. Theorem

If  $G$  is well-edge dominated, then  $G$  is of class 1.

#### Proof

From the above lemma, it is clear that every edge belongs to any one of the  $\gamma'$ -set. Therefore  $G$  is of class 1.

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