

**ON THE p -DOMINATION NUMBER AND p -REINFORCEMENT
NUMBER OF THE JOIN OF SOME GRAPHS**

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ABSTRACT

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. A subset D of G is a p -dominating set of G if $|N_G(x) \cap D| \geq p$ for all $x \in V \setminus D$, where $N_G(x)$ is the set of all vertices which are adjacent to x . The p -domination number of G , denoted by $\gamma_p(G)$, is the minimum cardinality of p -dominating sets of G . The p -reinforcement number of G , denoted by $r_p(G)$, is the minimum number of edges in G^C that has to be added to G in order to reduce the p -domination number of the resulting graphs. In this study, we gave a tight upperbound for the p -domination number of the join of graphs, the p -domination number of a complete and any graph, the 2-domination number and 3-domination number of fans, and the 2-reinforcement number and 3-reinforcement number of fans.

Mathematics Subject Classification:

Keywords: p -dominating set, p -domination number, p -reinforcement number, join, fans.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept p -domination in graphs was introduced by Fink *et al.* in [5]. Since then, many researchers studied the concept. Caro *et al.* [3], Blidia *et al.* [2], Lu *et al.* [8], Rautenbach *et al.* [13], and De La Viña *et al.* [4] gave bounds for the p -domination number of graphs. Lu and Xu [8] gave the p -domination number of complete multipartite graphs. Fujisawa *et al.* [6] gave the 2-domination number of the corona of some graphs. Thakkar *et al.* [14] and Mohan *et al.* [12] gave the 2-domination number of the Cartesian product of paths. Bakhshesh *et al.* [1] gave the 2-domination number of generalized Petersen graphs.

A study on the p -reinforcement number of graphs is found in [9]. Lu [8, 9, 10, 11] and other researchers worked on this concept and published a couple articles. Lu *et al.* [9] gave the p -reinforcement number of some graphs such as paths, cycles and complete t -partite graphs, and established some upper bounds. Lu and Xu [10] characterized all trees attaining the said upper bound for $p \geq 3$. Lu *et al.* [11] characterized trees with 2-reinforcement number equal to 3. In particular, they showed that $r_2(T) = 3$ if and only if there is a 2-dominating set S of T such that T contains neither an S -vulnerable vertices nor an S -vulnerable paths.

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A graph or a network G is an ordered pair $G = (V, E)$, where V or $V(G)$ is a nonempty finite set whose elements are called *vertices*, and E or $E(G)$ is a set of 2-element subsets of V called *edges*. The *order* of G , denoted by $|V|$, is the number of vertices of G . The *size* of G , denoted by $|E|$, is the number of edges of G . The *degree* of a vertex v of a graph G , denoted by $\deg_G(v)$, is the number of edges incident with v . The *minimum degree* $\delta(G)$ and the *maximum degree* $\Delta(G)$ of G is given by $\delta(G) = \min\{\deg_G(x) : x \in V\}$ and $\Delta(G) = \max\{\deg_G(x) : x \in G\}$, respectively. A graph H is called a *subgraph* of G if $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$ and $E(H) \subseteq E(G)$.

The *complement* of a graph G , denoted by \overline{G} , is a graph with the same vertex set as G and where two distinct vertices are adjacent if and only if they are not adjacent in G . The *path* $P_n = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ is the graph with distinct vertices v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n and edges $v_1v_2, v_2v_3, \dots, v_{n-1}v_n$. A *complete graph* of order n , denoted by K_n , is the graph in which every pair of distinct vertices are adjacent. The *join* of two graphs G and H , denoted by $G + H$, is the graph with vertex set $V(G + H) = V(G) \cup V(H)$ and edge set $E(G + H) = E(G) \cup E(H) \cup \{uv : u \in V(G), v \in V(H)\}$. The *fan* F_n is the graph of order $n + 1$, obtained from P_n by adding a new vertex, say x_0 , and joining x_0 by an edge to each of the n vertices of P_n , that is, $F_n = K_1 + P_n$.

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph and $x \in V$. The *neighborhood* of x is the set consisting of all vertices y which are adjacent to x , that is, $N(x) = \{y \in V : xy \in E\}$. The elements of $N(x)$ are called *neighbors* of x . Let $S \subseteq V$. The *neighborhood* of S in G is the set $N_G(S) = \{v \in V(G) : uv \in E(G) \text{ for some } u \in S\} = \bigcup_{v \in S} N_G(v)$. The *closed neighborhood* of S in G is the set $N_G[S] = S \cup N_G(S)$.

The *Pigeonhole Principle* implies that if there are n pigeons to enter into k pigeonholes with $n < k$, then there exists at least 1 pigeonhole that is empty.

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph and p a positive integer. A subset D of G is a p -dominating set of G if $|N_G(x) \cap D| \geq p$ for all $x \in V \setminus D$, where $N_G(x)$ is the set of all vertices which are adjacent to x . The p -domination number of G , denoted by $\gamma_p(G)$, is the minimum cardinality of p -dominating sets of G . The p -reinforcement number of G , denoted by $r_p(G)$, is the minimum number of edges in G^C that has to be added to G in order to reduce the p -domination number of the resulting graph.

II. RESULTS

A. p -Domination Number of the Join of Graphs

In this section, we gave a sharp upperbound of the p -domination number of the join of graphs. We also gave the p -domination number of the join of a complete graph of order $n \geq p$ and any graph.

Theorem 2.1: Let G and H be any graphs and p be a positive integer. If $|V(G)| \geq p$ and $|V(H)| \geq p$, then $\gamma_p(G + H) \leq 2p$.

Proof: Let G and H be any graphs with $|V(G)| \geq p$ and $|V(H)| \geq p$. Let $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p \in V(G)$ and $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p \in V(H)$. Consider $D = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$. Let $w \in V(G + H) \setminus D$, say $w \in V(H) \setminus D$. Then $|N(w) \cap D| \geq p$. This shows that D is a p -dominating set in $G + H$. Hence, $\gamma_p(G + H) \leq 2p$.

The next Corollary shows that the bound in Theorem 2.1 is sharp.

Corollary 2.2: Let P_m and P_n be paths of order m and n , respectively. If $m, n \geq 9$, then $\gamma_2(P_m + P_n) = 4$.

Proof: By **Theorem 2.1**, $\gamma_2(P_m + P_n) \leq 4$. Suppose $\gamma_2(P_m + P_n) < 4$, say without loss of generality $\gamma_2(P_m + P_n) = 3$. Let D be a 2-dominating set of $P_m + P_n$ with $|D| = 3$ and consider the following cases:

Case-1: $|V(P_n) \cap D| = 3$

Let $P_n = (1, 2, 3, \dots, n)$ and consider the partition

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-2, n-1, n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-3, n-2, n-1\}, \{n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-4, n-3, n-2\}, \{n-1, n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

of $V(P_n)$. Since $|V(P_n)| \geq 9$, $|\alpha| \geq 3$. By the *Pigeonhole principle*, there exists $A = \{u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}, u_{i+2 \pmod{n}}\} \in \alpha$ such that $|A \cap D| = 1$. Let $v \in u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}$. Then $|N(v) \cap D| = 1$. This is a contradiction.

Case-2: $|V(P_n) \cap D| = 2$

Let $P_n = (1, 2, 3, \dots, n)$ and consider the partition

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-2, n-1, n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-3, n-2, n-1\}, \{n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5, 6\}, \dots, \{n-4, n-3, n-2\}, \{n-1, n\}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

of $V(P_n)$. Since $|V(P_n)| \geq 9$, $|\alpha| \geq 3$. By the *Pigeonhole principle*, there exists $A = \{u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}, u_{i+2 \pmod{n}}\} \in \alpha$ such that $|A \cap D| = 0$. Let $v \in u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}$. Then $|N(v) \cap D| = 1$. This is a contradiction.

Therefore, $\gamma_2(P_m + P_n) = 4$.

The next Theorem gave the p -domination number of the join of a complete graph of order $n \geq p$ and any graph.

Theorem 2.3: Let G be a graph of order m and K_n be a complete graph of order n . If $p \leq n$, then $\gamma_p(K_n + G) = p$.

Proof: Let G be a graph of order m and $K_n = (\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}, E(K_n))$ be a complete graph of order n . Let $D = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$. Then clearly D is a p -dominating set in $K_n + G$. Thus, $\gamma_p(K_n + G) \leq p$. Since $p \leq \gamma_p(K_n + G)$, we must have $\gamma_p(K_n + G) = p$.

B. 2-Domination and 3-Domination Number of Fans

In this section, we gave the 2-domination number and 3-domination number of fans. Lemma 2.4 is found in [16] and Lemma 2.5 is an observation in [14].

Lemma 2.4: $\gamma(P_n) = \lceil n/3 \rceil$.

Lemma 2.5: $\gamma_2(P_n) = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$.

Observation 2.6: Let P_n be a path of order n . Then $\gamma(P_n) < \gamma_2(P_n)$, that is, if S is a minimum dominating set then it cannot be a 2-dominating set.

Theorem 2.7: D is a minimum 2-dominating set in F_n ($n \geq 3$) if and only if $D = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-4}, u_{n-1}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-5}, u_{n-2}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} \text{ or } \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

Proof: Let D be a minimum 2-dominating set in $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ ($n \geq 3$) and $D \neq D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-4}, u_{n-1}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-5}, u_{n-2}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} \text{ or } \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

Then there exist a subgraph $P = (u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}, u_{i+2 \pmod{n}})$ or (u_{n-1}, u_n) of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) such that $V(P) \cap D = \emptyset$. If $P = (u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}, u_{i+2 \pmod{n}})$, then we let $v = u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}$. While, if $P = (u_{n-1}, u_n)$, then we let $v = u_n$. Thus, $|N(v) \cap D| = 1$. This is a contradiction.

Conversely, suppose that $D^* = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-4}, u_{n-1}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-5}, u_{n-2}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} \text{ or } \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

and D^* is not a minimum 2-dominating set in $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ ($n \geq 3$). Clearly, D^* is a 2-dominating set. Let D be a minimum 2-dominating set. Then $|D| < |D^*|$. Consider the following cases:

Case-1: $u \in D$

If $u \in D$, then $D \setminus \{u\}$ is not a dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) . Hence, there exists $v \in \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ such that $N(v) = \{u\}$. Thus, $|N(v) \cap D| = 1$. This is a contradiction.

Case-2: $u \notin D$

If $u \notin D$, then we note that D' is a minimum dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) . Hence, by **Observation 2.6** D' cannot be a 2-dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) , and so is D . Since $u \notin D$, D cannot be a 2-dominating set of F_n . This is a contradiction.

Corollary 2.8: Let F_n ($n \geq 3$) be a fan of order $n+1$. Then $\gamma_2(F_n) = \lceil n/3 \rceil + 1$.

Observation 2.9: Let P_n be a path of order n . Then $\gamma_2(P_n) < \gamma_3(P_n)$, that is, if S is a minimum 2-dominating set of P_n then it cannot be a 3-dominating set.

Theorem 2.10: D is a minimum 3-dominating set in F_n ($n \geq 3$) if and only if $D = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-2}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Proof: Let D be a minimum 3-dominating set in $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ ($n \geq 3$) and suppose that $D \neq D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-2}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Then there exist a subset $A = \{u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}\}$ or $\{u_n\}$ or $\{u_1\}$ of $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ such that $A \cap D = \emptyset$. Let $v = u_{i+1 \pmod{n}}$ or u_1 or u_n . Then, $|N(v) \cap D| < 3$. This is a contradiction.

Conversely, suppose that $D^* = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-2}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

and D^* is not a minimum 3-dominating set in $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ ($n \geq 3$). Clearly, D^* is a 3-dominating set. Let D be a minimum 3-dominating set. Then $|D| < |D^*|$. Consider the following cases:

Case-1: $u \in D$

If $u \in D$, then $D \setminus \{u\}$ is not a 2-dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) . Hence, there exists $v \in \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ such that $|N(v)| < 2$. Thus, $|N(v) \cap D| < 3$. This is a contradiction.

Case-2: $u \notin D$

If $u \notin D$, then we note that D' is a minimum 2-dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) . Hence, by **Observation 2.9** D' cannot be a 3-dominating set of (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) , and so is D . Since $u \notin D$, D cannot be a 3-dominating set of F_n . This is a contradiction.

Corollary 2.11: Let F_n ($n \geq 3$) be a fan of order $n + 1$. Then $\gamma_3(F_n) = \lceil n/2 \rceil + 1$.

C. 2-Reinforcement and 3-Reinforcement Number of Fans

In this section, we present the 2-reinforcement number and 3-reinforcement number of fans. Remark 2.12 is implied in an observation in [15].

Remark 2.12: Let P_n be a path of order n . Then

$$r(P_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ 2 & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \\ 3 & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Observation 2.13: Let P_n be a path of order n . Then

$$r_2(P_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ 3 & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 2.14: Let F_n ($n \geq 4$) be a fan of order $n + 1$. Then $r_2(F_n) = r(P_n)$.

Proof: Let $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ be a fan graph of order $n + 1$. By **Theorem 2.7**, D is a minimum 2-dominating set in F_n ($n \geq 3$) if and only if $D = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-4}, u_{n-1}\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-5}, u_{n-2}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} \text{ or } \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \{u_2, u_5, \dots, u_{n-6}, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1} \text{ or } u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

If $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then $D^* = D \setminus \{u_n\}$ is a 2-dominating set in $F_n + u_2 u_n$. If $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$, then $D^* = D \setminus \{u_n\}$ is a 2-dominating set in $F_n + u_2 u_{n-1} + u_2 u_n$. If $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, then $D^* = D \setminus \{u_n\}$ is a 2-dominating set in $F_n + u_2 u_{n-2} + u_2 u_{n-1} + u_2 u_n$. Hence, by Remark 2.12 $r_2(F_n) \leq r(P_n)$. Suppose $r_2(F_n) < r(P_n)$ for $n \equiv 0$ or $2 \pmod{3}$. Then $D \setminus \{u\}$ must be a 2-dominating set in F'_n (where F'_n is the graph obtained from F_n by adding edges), that is, $D \setminus \{u\}$ must be a 2-dominating set in P'_n (where P'_n is the graph obtained from P_n by adding edges) – which is not possible.

Theorem 2.15: Let F_n ($n \geq 3$) be a fan of order $n + 1$. Then $r_3(F_n) = r_2(P_n)$.

Proof: Let $F_n = (\{u\}, \emptyset) + (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ be a fan graph of order $n + 1$. By **Theorem 2.10**, D is a minimum 3-dominating set in F_n ($n \geq 3$) if and only if $D = D' \cup \{u\}$ where

$$D' = \begin{cases} \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-3}, u_{n-1}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ \{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-2}, u_n\} & , \text{ if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

If $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, then $D^* = D \setminus \{u_n\}$ is a 3-dominating set in $F_n + u_1u_n$. If $n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, then $D^* = D \setminus \{u_n\}$ is a 3-dominating set in $F_n + u_1u_n + u_1u_{n-1} + u_3u_n$. Hence, by Observation 2.13 $r_3(F_n) \leq r_2(P_n)$. Suppose $r_3(F_n) < r_2(P_n)$ for $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. Then $D \setminus \{u\}$ must be a 3-dominating set in F'_n (where F'_n is the graph obtained from F_n by adding edges), that is, $D \setminus \{u\}$ must be a 3-dominating set in P'_n (where P'_n is the graph obtained from P_n by adding edges) – which is not possible.

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