

TOTAL DOMINATION VERSUS PAIRED DOMINATION

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Abstract

A dominating set of a graph G is a vertex subset that any vertex of G either belongs to or is adjacent to. A total dominating set is a dominating set whose induced subgraph does not contain isolated vertices. The minimal size of a total dominating set, the total domination number, is denoted by γ_t . The maximal size of an inclusionwise minimal total dominating set, the upper total domination number, is denoted by Γ_t . A paired dominating set is a dominating set whose induced subgraph has a perfect matching. The minimal size of a paired dominating set, the paired domination number, is denoted by γ_p . The maximal size of an inclusionwise minimal paired dominating set, the upper paired domination number, is denoted by Γ_p .

In this paper we prove several results on the ratio of these four parameters: For each $r \geq 2$ we prove the sharp bound $\gamma_p/\gamma_t \leq 2 - 2/r$ for $K_{1,r}$ -free graphs. As a consequence, we obtain the sharp bound $\gamma_p/\gamma_t \leq 2 - 2/(\Delta + 1)$, where Δ is the maximum degree. We also show for each $r \geq 2$ that $\{C_5, T_r\}$ -free graphs fulfill the sharp bound $\gamma_p/\gamma_t \leq 2 - 2/r$, where T_r is obtained from $K_{1,r}$ by subdividing each edge exactly once. We show that all of these bounds also hold for the ratio Γ_p/Γ_t . Further, we prove that a graph hereditarily has an induced paired dominating set if and only if $\gamma_p \leq \Gamma_t$ holds for any induced subgraph. We also give a finite forbidden subgraph characterization for this condition. We exactly determine the maximal value of the ratio γ_p/Γ_t taken over the induced subgraphs of a graph. As a consequence, we prove for each $r \geq 3$ the sharp bound $\gamma_p/\Gamma_t \leq 2 - 2/r$ for graphs that do not contain the corona of $K_{1,r}$ as subgraph. In particular, we obtain the sharp bound $\gamma_p/\Gamma_t \leq 2 - 2/\Delta$.

Keywords: total domination, upper total domination, paired domination, upper paired domination, generalized claw-free graphs.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C69.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we consider finite, simple and undirected graphs. Since this paper deals with graph invariants, we are allowed to treat isomorphic graphs as identical. All considered graphs are assumed to be free of isolated vertices. This assumption is necessary and can be made without loss of generality, since total dominating sets and paired dominating sets do not exist in graphs that have isolated vertices.

Let G be a graph. If a graph H is an induced subgraph of G , then we write $H \subseteq G$. If $H \not\subseteq G$, then G is said to be H -free. If \mathcal{H} is a set of graphs, then G is said to be \mathcal{H} -free if G is H -free for every $H \in \mathcal{H}$. The corona of G , denoted by $Cr(G)$, is the graph obtained from G by attaching a pendant vertex to each vertex of G . The complete bipartite graph $K_{1,3}$ is called the *claw*. In general, graphs of the form $K_{1,r}$ are sometimes called *generalized claws*. The path on three vertices we denote by P_3 . Note that $P_3 \cong K_{1,2}$. For each $r \geq 3$, the graph T_r is obtained from $K_{1,r}$ by subdividing each edge exactly once. The claw, T_3 and the corona of the claw are displayed in Figure 1.

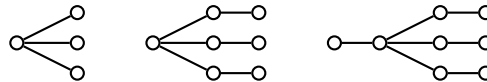


Figure 1. $K_{1,3}$, T_3 and $Cr(K_{1,3})$.

A *dominating set* X of G is a vertex subset such that any vertex of $V(G) \setminus X$ has a neighbor in X . There is a lot of literature dealing with the concept of dominating sets and its many variants. An introduction into the field of domination in graphs is the book by Haynes, Hedetniemi and Slater [1]. A *total dominating set* is a dominating set X whose induced subgraph, denoted by $G[X]$, does not have isolated vertices. Since our considered graphs do not have isolated vertices, any graph has a total dominating set. The minimal size of a total dominating set, the *total domination number*, is denoted by γ_t . An inclusionwise minimal total dominating set is said to be *minimal*. The maximal size of a minimal total dominating set, the *upper total domination number*, is denoted by Γ_t . Total domination was introduced by Cockayne, Dawes and Hedetniemi [2] in 1980 and is well studied now. A survey on total domination, including many recent results, is the paper by Henning [3]. A *paired dominating set* is a dominating set whose induced subgraph has a perfect matching. Again, since our considered graphs do not have isolated vertices, any graph has a paired dominating set. The minimal size of a paired dominating set, the *paired domination number*, is denoted by γ_p . An inclusionwise minimal paired dominating set is said to be *minimal*. The maximal size of a minimal paired dominating set, the *upper paired domination*

number, is denoted by Γ_p . Paired domination was introduced by Haynes and Slater [4] in 1998 and has received much attention in the literature. There are a lot of papers dealing with this topic, some of which are stated below. An *induced paired dominating set* is a paired dominating set that induces a 1-regular subgraph. So to say, it is an induced matching whose matched vertices dominate the graph. Not every graph has an induced paired dominating set, e.g. the graphs in Figure 2. In fact, it is an \mathcal{NP} -complete problem to decide if a given graph has such a set, as is shown by Telle [5]. Induced paired dominating sets are also studied by Haynes, Lawson and Studer [6] and Zelinka [7].

Especially for claw-free graphs, a lot of research has been done on total domination [8, 9, 10, 11] and paired domination [12, 13, 14]. Besides having bounds on the parameters themselves, it is also interesting to know how the parameters behave compared to each other. Usually, the absolute difference of two parameters is not bounded. In fact, $\gamma_p - \gamma_t$, $\Gamma_p - \Gamma_t$ and $\gamma_p - \Gamma_t$ can grow arbitrarily large, as can be easily seen considering the graphs $Cr(K_{1,r})$. In this case, it is more promising to study the ratios of the parameters, i.e. γ_p/γ_t , Γ_p/Γ_t and γ_p/Γ_t .

In [4], the following bound was given:

Theorem 1 (Haynes and Slater [4]). *Let G be a graph. Then $\gamma_p(G) \leq 2\gamma_t(G) - 2$.*

Hence,

$$(1) \quad \frac{\gamma_p}{\gamma_t} \leq 2$$

holds in general. Since $\gamma_p(T_r)/\gamma_t(T_r) = 2 - 2/(r+1)$ for each $r \geq 1$, (1) is asymptotically sharp. The same holds for the ratio Γ_p/Γ_t , as is shown by Dorbec, Henning and McCoy [16].

However, if certain subgraphs are forbidden, (1) can be improved. For example, Brigham and Dutton [15] show that for claw-free graphs it holds that $\gamma_p/\gamma_t \leq 4/3$. One of the aims of this paper is to generalize this bound to generalized claw-free graphs. Further, we establish similar bounds for the ratio γ_p/Γ_t .

2. THE MAIN RESULTS

In this section we present our main results. The proofs are given in Section 3.

We improve (1) by proving the following two theorems. The first one is a bound in terms of the smallest generalized claw that is not contained in the considered graph:

Theorem 2. *Let G be a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$. Then*

$$(2) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}$$

and this bound is sharp for each $r \geq 3$. Further,

$$(3) \quad \frac{\Gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

As a consequence, we obtain

Corollary 3. *If G is a graph with maximum degree Δ , then*

$$(4) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{\Delta + 1}$$

and this bound is sharp for each Δ . Further,

$$(5) \quad \frac{\Gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{\Delta + 1}.$$

Note that (3) and (5) are possibly not sharp.

The second theorem is a strengthening of Theorem 2, but is only applicable to C_5 -free graphs:

Theorem 4. *Let G be a $\{C_5, T_r\}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$. Then*

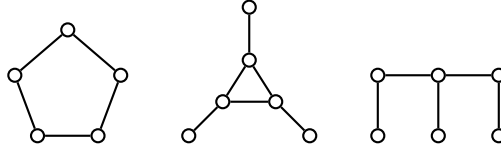
$$(6) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}$$

and

$$(7) \quad \frac{\Gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

Both bounds are sharp for each $r \geq 3$.

The next theorem deals with the interplay of the ratio $\gamma_p \leq \Gamma_t$ and the existence of induced paired dominating sets: If a graph G has an induced paired dominating set P , then P is also a minimal total dominating set. Hence, $|P| \leq \Gamma_t(G)$. In particular, $\gamma_p(G)/\Gamma_t(G) \leq 1$. Theorem 5 gives the opposite direction: If $\gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H) \leq 1$ holds for any induced subgraph of G , then G also has an induced paired dominating set. Furthermore, it gives the forbidden subgraph characterization for this condition. According to our knowledge, this characterization has not been discovered yet.

Figure 2. C_5 , $Cr(K_3)$ and $Cr(P_3)$.

Theorem 5. *Let G be a graph. The following statements are equivalent:*

- (i) *Any induced subgraph H of G has an induced paired dominating set.*
- (ii) $\max_{H \subseteq G} \gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H) = 1$.
- (iii) G is $\{C_5, Cr(K_3), Cr(P_3)\}$ -free.

The forbidden subgraphs of Theorem 5 are displayed in Figure 2.

Theorem 6 deals with the ratio γ_p/Γ_t . It completely determines the maximal value of the ratio γ_p/Γ_t taken over the induced subgraphs of a graph. Furthermore, it provides a complete list of the possible values and gives a finite forbidden subgraph characterization for each value.

Theorem 6. *Let G be a graph and let*

$$(8) \quad \lambda = \max\{2, \min\{r : G \text{ is } Cr(K_{1,r})\text{-free}\}\}.$$

Then

$$(9) \quad \max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} = \begin{cases} 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}, & \text{if } G \text{ is } \{C_5, Cr(K_3)\}\text{-free,} \\ \max\{\frac{4}{3}, 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}\}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The possible values of $\max_{H \subseteq G} \gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H)$ provided by Theorem 6 are displayed in Table 1.

As a direct consequence of Theorem 6, we obtain the following bound:

Corollary 7. *Let G be a $Cr(K_{1,r})$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$. Then*

$$(10) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

This bound is sharp for each $r \geq 3$.

In particular, we obtain

Corollary 8. *Let G be a connected graph with maximum degree $\Delta \geq 2$ that is not isomorphic to C_5 . Then*

$$(11) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{\Delta}.$$

This bound is sharp for each $\Delta \geq 2$.

Property of a graph G	$\max_{H \subseteq G} \gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H)$
$\{C_5, Cr(K_3), Cr(P_3)\}$ -free	1
$Cr(K_{1,3})$ -free, not $\{C_5, Cr(K_3), Cr(P_3)\}$ -free	4/3
$Cr(K_{1,4})$ -free, but $Cr(K_{1,3}) \subseteq G$	3/2
$Cr(K_{1,5})$ -free, but $Cr(K_{1,4}) \subseteq G$	8/5
$Cr(K_{1,6})$ -free, but $Cr(K_{1,5}) \subseteq G$	5/3
$Cr(K_{1,7})$ -free, but $Cr(K_{1,6}) \subseteq G$	12/7
\vdots	\vdots
$Cr(K_{1,r})$ -free, but $Cr(K_{1,r-1}) \subseteq G$	$2 - 2/r$

Table 1. The values of $\max_{H \subseteq G} \gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H)$ provided by Theorem 6. The table is read as follows: If G is a $\{C_5, Cr(K_3), Cr(P_3)\}$ -free graph, the ratio equals 1. Otherwise, if G is $Cr(K_{1,r})$ -free, but not $Cr(K_{1,r+1})$ -free, the ratio equals $2 - 2/r$.

3. THE PROOFS

3.1. Auxiliary results

The results of this paper are based on the following theorems.

In [17], the author gave the following characterization of graphs that hereditarily have an induced paired dominating set.

Theorem 9 [17]. *Let G be a graph. Any induced subgraph H of G has an induced paired dominating set if and only if G does not contain C_5 , $Cr(K_3)$ or $Cr(P_3)$ as induced subgraph.*

Furthermore, he gave a sufficient condition for a graph to have a total dominating set that induces a generalized claw-free graph.

Theorem 10 [17]. *Let G be a graph. If G is $Cr(K_{1,r})$ -free for some $r \geq 3$, then G has a total dominating set T such that $G[T]$ is $K_{1,r}$ -free.*

Let G be a graph and let M be a matching of G . If M has maximal size among the matchings of G , it is said to be *maximum*. An *augmenting path* of G is a path that starts and ends on unmatched vertices and alternates between edges of M and $E(G) \setminus M$. A classical theorem by Berge [18] states a characterization of maximum matchings in terms of augmenting paths.

Theorem 11 (Berge [18]). *Let G be a graph. A matching M of G is maximum if and only if there is no augmenting path with respect to M .*

In [19], Plummer and Saito prove the following bound on the *matching number* ν of a graph, defined as the maximal size of a matching.

Theorem 12 (Plummer and Saito[19]). *If G is a k -connected $K_{1,r}$ -free graph, then*

$$(12) \quad \nu(G) \geq \min \left\{ \frac{k}{r+k-1} |V(G)|, \left\lfloor \frac{1}{2} |V(G)| \right\rfloor \right\}.$$

We need a special case of Theorem 12:

Corollary 13. *If G is a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$, then*

$$(13) \quad \frac{\nu(G)}{|V(G)|} \geq \frac{1}{r}.$$

Proof. Let G be a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$. We can assume that G is connected. Theorem 12 gives

$$\nu(G) \geq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{r} |V(G)|, \left\lfloor \frac{1}{2} |V(G)| \right\rfloor \right\}.$$

Since $r \geq 3$ and $|V(G)| \geq 2$ (by the general assumption that G does not have isolated vertices),

$$\frac{1}{r} |V(G)| \leq \left\lfloor \frac{1}{2} |V(G)| \right\rfloor.$$

Thus

$$\nu(G) \geq \frac{1}{r} |V(G)|,$$

and this completes the proof. ■

We obtain the following observation:

Lemma 14. *Let G be a graph with a total dominating set T such that $G[T]$ is $K_{1,r}$ -free for some $r \geq 3$. Then there is a paired dominating set P with*

$$(14) \quad \frac{|P|}{|T|} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

Proof. Let G be a graph that has a total dominating set T such that $G[T]$ is a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph. We can assume that T is minimal. Let M be a matching of size $\nu(G[T])$ of $G[T]$. Since $G[T]$ is $K_{1,r}$ -free, Corollary 13 gives

$$(15) \quad \frac{|M|}{|T|} \geq \frac{1}{r}.$$

Let $U \subseteq T$ be the set of unmatched vertices and let $u \in U$ be arbitrary. Then $G[T \setminus \{u\}]$ does not have isolated vertices, since otherwise u would necessarily be matched to one of these isolated vertices. Since T is a minimal total dominating set of G , there is a vertex $u' \in V \setminus T$ whose only neighbor in T is u . Otherwise $T \setminus \{u\}$ would be a total dominating set of G , too. We call u' a *private neighbor* of u . Let P be the set obtained from T by adding exactly one private neighbor u' for each $u \in U$. In $G[P]$, each $u \in U$ can then be matched to its former private neighbor u' . Hence, $G[P]$ has a perfect matching and is therefore a paired dominating set of G . We observe that M leaves exactly $|T| - 2|M|$ vertices of T unmatched. That is, $|U| = |T| - 2|M|$. Thus, $|P| = |T| + |U| = 2|T| - 2|M|$. Together with (15) we obtain

$$\frac{|P|}{|T|} = \frac{2|T| - 2|M|}{|T|} = 2 - \frac{2|M|}{|T|} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

This completes the proof. ■

3.2. Theorem 2, Corollary 3 and Theorem 4

We need another auxilliary result first:

Lemma 15. *Let G be a graph and let $r \geq 3$ such that any minimal total dominating set of G induces a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph. Then*

$$\frac{\Gamma_p(G)}{\Gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

Proof. Let G be a graph and let $r \geq 3$ such that any minimal total dominating set of G induces a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph. Let P be a minimal paired dominating set of G and let M be a perfect matching of $G[P]$. Since any paired dominating set is a total dominating set, too, there is a minimal total dominating set $T \subseteq P$. Let $M' = M \cap E(G[T])$ be the restriction of M to $G[T]$ and let $U \subseteq T$ be the vertices of T that are not matched by M' .

Assume for contradiction that M' is not a maximum matching of $G[T]$. By Theorem 11, there is an augmenting path in $G[T]$ with respect to M' . Hence, there is a bigger matching of $G[T]$, say M'' , such that the set of unmatched vertices of M'' , denoted by U' , is a subset of U . Let P' be the set obtained from T by adding the matching partner in M of each $u \in U'$. Clearly P' is a proper subset of P . P' is a dominating set, since $T \subseteq P'$. Furthermore, $G[P']$ has a perfect matching and is therefore a paired dominating set. This is a contradiction to the minimality of P .

Hence, M' is a maximum matching of $G[T]$. As any minimal total dominating set of G induces a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph, $G[T]$ is also $K_{1,r}$ -free. By Corollary 13, $|M'| \geq |T|/r$. As clearly $|P| = |T| + |U|$ and $|U| = |T| - 2|M'|$, an easy calculation shows $|P| \leq (2 - 2/r)|T|$. As P was arbitrary, this completes the proof. ■

Theorem 2 is a simple consequence of Lemma 14 and Lemma 15.

Proof of Theorem 2. Let G be a $K_{1,r}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$.

By Lemma 15, (3) holds.

We still have to prove (2). For every total dominating set T , $G[T]$ is also $K_{1,r}$ -free. Hence, if T is a total dominating set of size $\gamma_t(G)$, Lemma 14 provides a paired dominating set P of size at most $(2 - 2/r)\gamma_t(G)$. Thus,

$$\frac{\gamma_p(G)}{\gamma_t(G)} \leq \frac{|P|}{\gamma_t(G)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

To see that (2) is sharp for each r , we observe that T_{r-1} is $K_{1,r}$ -free, $\gamma_p(T_{r-1}) = 2(r-1)$ and $\gamma_t(T_{r-1}) = r$. An easy computation leads to

$$(16) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(T_{r-1})}{\gamma_t(T_{r-1})} = 2 - \frac{2}{r}.$$

■

Proof of Corollary 3. Since the proof of (4) is straightforward from Theorem 2, we proceed to the sharpness of (4). The case $\Delta = 1$ is clear. For $\Delta \geq 2$, note that T_Δ attains the bound. Finally, (16) completes the proof. ■

For the proof of Theorem 4, we need the following Lemma:

Lemma 16. *Let G be a $\{C_5, T_r\}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$. Then the subgraph induced by any minimal total dominating set of G is $K_{1,r}$ -free.*

Proof. Let G be a $\{C_5, T_r\}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$ and let T be a minimal total dominating set of G . Assume for contradiction that $G[T]$ is not $K_{1,r}$ -free. That is, there is a subset $S \subseteq T$ with $G[S] \cong K_{1,r}$. Let x be the dominating vertex of the $K_{1,r}$ and let s_1, s_2, \dots, s_r be the pendant vertices of the $K_{1,r}$. Since T is a minimal total dominating set, each vertex $s_i \in S \setminus \{x\}$ has a neighbor $v_i \notin S$ such that $N(v_i) \cap S = \{s_i\}$. If there are some $1 \leq i < j \leq r$ such that v_i is adjacent to v_j , then $G[x, s_i, v_i, s_j, v_j] \cong C_5$, a contradiction to the choice of G . Hence, $\{v_i : 1 \leq i \leq r\}$ is a stable set. Thus, $G[S \cup \{v_i : 1 \leq i \leq r\}] \cong T_r$, a contradiction to the choice of G . ■

We are now in the position to prove Theorem 4:

Proof of Theorem 4. Let G be a $\{C_5, T_r\}$ -free graph for some $r \geq 3$.

By Lemma 15, (7) holds.

We still have to prove (6). Lemma 16 shows that for every minimal total dominating set T , $G[T]$ is $K_{1,r}$ -free. The rest of the proof is analog to the proof of Theorem 2.

Sharpness is attained by $Cr(K_{1,r-1})$. We observe that $\gamma_p(Cr(K_{1,r-1})) = \Gamma_p(Cr(K_{1,r-1})) = 2r - 2$ while $\gamma_t(Cr(K_{1,r-1})) = \Gamma_t(Cr(K_{1,r-1})) = r$. This completes the proof. ■

3.3. Theorem 5

We need the following observation.

Lemma 17. *For any graph G ,*

$$(17) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(Cr(G))}{\Gamma_t(Cr(G))} = 2 - 2 \frac{\nu(G)}{|V(G)|}.$$

In particular, for any r ,

$$(18) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(Cr(K_{1,r}))}{\Gamma_t(Cr(K_{1,r}))} = 2 - \frac{2}{r+1}.$$

Proof. Let G be a graph. It is observed in [1], in the section dealing with paired dominating sets, that $\gamma_p(Cr(G)) = 2|V(G)| - 2\nu(G)$. $\Gamma_t(Cr(G)) = |V(G)|$ is a straightforward consequence of the definition of corona graphs. These two facts lead to (17). The validity of (18) follows from $\nu(K_{1,r}) = 1$, $|V(K_{1,r})| = r+1$ and (17). ■

Further, we observe that

$$(19) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(C_5)}{\Gamma_t(C_5)} = \frac{\gamma_p(Cr(K_3))}{\Gamma_t(Cr(K_3))} = \frac{\gamma_p(Cr(P_3))}{\Gamma_t(Cr(P_3))} = \frac{4}{3}.$$

Proof of Theorem 5. By Theorem 9, the conditions (i) and (iii) are equivalent. Let G be a graph. To see that condition (i) implies condition (ii), assume that any induced subgraph H of G has an induced paired dominating set. Hence, H has a paired dominating set which is a minimal total dominating set. Thus $\gamma_p(H) \leq \Gamma_t(H)$.

By (19), any graph that contains C_5 , $Cr(K_3)$ or $Cr(P_3)$ as induced subgraph does not meet condition (ii). Hence, condition (ii) implies condition (iii) and this completes the proof. ■

3.4. Theorem 6, Corollary 7 and Corollary 8

Combining Lemma 14, Theorem 5 and Theorem 10, we obtain Theorem 6:

Proof of Theorem 6. Let G be a graph and let λ be defined as in (8).

First we assume that $\lambda = 2$, i.e. G is $Cr(P_3)$ -free.

Further assume that G is $\{C_5, Cr(K_3)\}$ -free. By Theorem 5, $\gamma_p(H) \leq \Gamma_t(H)$ holds for any induced subgraph H of G . Hence, (9) holds in this case.

We now assume that G is not $\{C_5, Cr(K_3)\}$ -free. By (19),

$$(20) \quad \max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} \geq \frac{4}{3}.$$

Since $\lambda = 2$, G is $Cr(K_{1,2})$ -free by definition of λ . Now let H be any induced subgraph of G . In particular, H is $Cr(K_{1,3})$ -free. Hence by Theorem 10, H has a minimal total dominating set T such that $G[T]$ is $K_{1,3}$ -free. By Lemma 14, H has a paired dominating set P with $|P|/|T| \leq 4/3$. Hence,

$$(21) \quad \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} \leq \frac{|P|}{|T|} \leq \frac{4}{3}.$$

Combining (20) and (21) leads to

$$\max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} = \frac{4}{3},$$

which is the desired equality (9) for the case $\lambda = 2$.

We now assume that $\lambda \geq 3$. Then, G is not $Cr(K_{1,2})$ -free and so (19) gives $\max_{H \subseteq G} \gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H) \geq 4/3$. To complete the proof, we have to show that

$$(22) \quad \max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} = 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}.$$

By definition of λ , G is $Cr(K_{1,\lambda})$ -free. Let H be any induced subgraph of G . Then H is also $Cr(K_{1,\lambda})$ -free. By Theorem 10, H has a minimal total dominating set T such that $G[T]$ is $K_{1,\lambda}$ -free. By Lemma 14, H has a paired dominating set P with $|P|/|T| \leq 2 - 2/\lambda$. Therefore, $\gamma_p(H)/\Gamma_t(H) \leq 2 - 2/\lambda$ and thus

$$(23) \quad \max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} \leq 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}.$$

On the other hand, G contains $Cr(K_{1,\lambda-1})$ as induced subgraph. Lemma 17 gives $\gamma_p(Cr(K_{1,\lambda-1}))/\Gamma_t(Cr(K_{1,\lambda-1})) = 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}$. Hence,

$$(24) \quad \max_{H \subseteq G} \frac{\gamma_p(H)}{\Gamma_t(H)} \geq 2 - \frac{2}{\lambda}.$$

Now, (23) and (24) give (22). This completes the proof. ■

Proof of Corollary 7. Theorem 6 gives (10). Sharpness is obtained by $Cr(K_{1,r-1})$, as Lemma 17 shows. ■

Proof of Corollary 8. Let G be a connected graph of maximum degree $\Delta \geq 2$ that is not isomorphic to C_5 . If $\Delta = 2$, G is a path of length at least 2 or a cycle that is not C_5 and hence (11) holds by Theorem 5. Sharpness is obtained by P_3 , since $\gamma_p(P_3) = \Gamma_t(P_3) = 2$. If $\Delta \geq 3$, G is $Cr(K_{1,\Delta})$ -free. Corollary 7 then provides (11). Sharpness is obtained by $Cr(K_{1,\Delta-1})$, as Lemma 17 shows. ■

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Received 28 February 2011

Accepted 3 August 2011

