

# Pitchfork Pendant Equitable Domination In Graphs

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Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a finite, simple and undirected graph. An equitable dominating set  $S$  in  $G$  is called a pendant equitable dominating set if  $\langle S \rangle$  contains atleast one pendant equitable vertex. A subset  $S$  of  $V$  is a pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set if every vertex  $v \in S$  dominates atleast  $j$  and atmost  $k$  vertices of

$V - S$ , where  $j$  and  $k$  are non-negative integers. The pitchfork pendant equitable domination number  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of a pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set of  $G$ . In this article pitchfork pendant equitable domination when  $j = 1$  and  $k = 2$  is studied. Some bounds on  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$  related to order, size, minimum and maximum degree of a graph and some properties are given. Pitchfork pendant equitable domination is determined for some known and new modified graphs.

**Keywords:** Equitable dominating Set (EDS), Pendant equitable dominating Set (PEDS), Pitchfork Pendant equitable dominating Set (PFPEEDS).

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be any graph with  $|V(G)| = n$  vertices and  $|E(G)| = m$  edges. Then  $n, m$  are respectively called the order and the size of  $G$ . The minimum and maximum of the degree among the vertices of  $G$  is denoted by  $\delta(G)$  and  $\Delta(G)$  respectively. A graph  $G$  is said to be regular if  $\delta(G) = \Delta(G)$ . A vertex of degree zero is called an isolated vertex and a vertex of degree one is called a pendant vertex. An edge incident to a pendant vertex is called a pendant edge. The lollipop graph  $L_{m,n}$  is obtained by joining a vertex of  $K_m$  to  $P_n$  by edge. Tadpole graph  $T_{m,n}$  is obtained by joining a vertex of  $C_m$  to  $P_n$  by edge. The daisy graph  $D_{m,n}$  is obtained by joining two cycles  $C_m$  to  $C_n$  by a common node. The graph denoted by  $(H_1 \times H_2)$  is the Cartesian product of two graphs  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  with  $(H_1 \times H_2) = V(H_1) \times V(H_2)$  (where  $\times$  denotes the Cartesian product of sets) and two vertices  $u = (u_1, u_2)$  and  $v = (v_1, v_2)$  in  $V(G_1 \times G_2)$  whenever  $[u_1 = v_1$  and

$(u_2, v_2) \in E(G_2)]$  or  $[u_2 = v_2 \text{ and } (u_1, v_1) \in E(G_1)]$ . If each  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is a path  $P_m$  and  $P_n$  then we call  $(P_m \times P_n)$ , a  $m \times n$  grid graph for our convenience we refer  $(P_m \times P_n)$  by  $P_{m,n}$  for graph terminology, we refer to [1],[2],[3].

**Definition 1.1.**[4] A subset  $S$  of  $V(G)$  is a dominating set of  $G$  if each vertex  $u \in V - S$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $S$ . The least cardinality of a dominating set in  $G$  is called the domination number of  $G$  and is usually denoted by  $\gamma(G)$ .

**Definition 1.2.**[5] A dominating set  $S$  in  $G$  is called a pendant dominating set if  $\langle S \rangle$  contains at least one pendant vertex. The minimum cardinality of a pendant dominating set is called the pendant domination number denoted by  $\gamma_{pe}(G)$ .

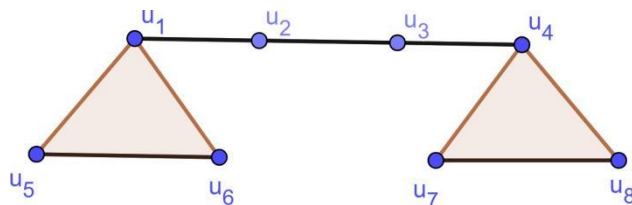
**Definition 1.3.** [7] A subset  $S$  of  $V(G)$  is called an EDS if for every  $v \in (V - S)$  there exists a vertex  $u \in S$  such that  $uv \in E(G)$  and  $|\deg(u) - \deg(v)| \leq 1$ . The minimum cardinality of such an equitable dominating set is called equitable domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_e(G)$

If  $u \in V$  such that  $|\deg(u) - \deg(v)| \geq 2$  for every  $v \in N(u)$  then  $u$  is in every equitable dominating set such points are called equitable isolates.  $I_e$  denotes the set of all equitable isolates. The equitable neighborhood of  $u$  denoted by  $N_e(u)$  is defined as  $N_e(u) = \{v \in V: |v \in N(u), |\deg(u) - \deg(v)| \leq 1\}$ . The maximum and minimum equitable degree of a point in  $G$  are denoted by  $\Delta_e(G)$  and  $\delta_e(G)$  that is  $\Delta_e(G) = \max_{u \in V(G)} |N_e(u)|$  and  $\delta_e(G) = \min_{u \in V(G)} |N_e(u)|$ . The open equitable neighborhood and closed equitable neighborhood of  $v$  are denoted by  $N_e(v)$  and  $N_e[v] = N_e(v) \cup \{v\}$  respectively. If  $S \subseteq V$  then  $N_e(S) = \bigcup_{v \in S} N_e(v)$  and  $N_e[S] = N_e(S) \cup S$ . For a detailed treatment of the pendant domination, equitable domination and pitchfork domination reader may referred to [4], [5], [6],[7].

Let  $S$  be an EDS in  $G$ . Then  $S$  is called a PEDS, if  $\langle S \rangle$  contains at least one pendant vertex. The pendant equitable dominating set of minimum cardinality is called the pendant equitable domination number denoted by  $\gamma_{pee}(G)$ . Any PEDS of cardinality  $\gamma_{pee}(G)$  is called a  $\gamma_{pee}$ -set.[8]

**Definition 1.4.** An equitable dominating set  $S$  in  $G$  is a PFPEEDS if every vertex  $v$  in  $S$  dominates maximum two vertices of  $V - S$  and  $\langle S \rangle$  contains pendant vertex. The set  $S$  is a minimum PFPEEDS, if it has no proper pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set. The minimum cardinality over all PFPEEDS in  $G$  is called pitchfork pendant equitable domination number of  $G$  denoted by  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$

**Example 1.1.** Consider a graph as shown in the Fig (a). Then, the set  $S = \{u_1, u_2, u_4\}$  is a minimum  $\gamma_{pe}$ -set of  $G$  and the set  $S' = \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4\}$  is a minimum pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set of  $G$ .



The new domination parameter is defined for all non-trivial connected graphs of order atleast three. Hence, throughout the paper, we assume that by a graph we mean a connected graph of order at least three.

**Proposition 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph having maximum degree  $\Delta_e(G) \leq 2$ , then

$$\gamma_{pee}(G) = \gamma_{pfpee}(G).$$

Proof. Let  $S$  be a minimum PEDS in  $G$  with equitable domination number  $\gamma_{pee}(G)$ . Since each vertex in  $S$  is adjacent to one or two vertices of  $V-S$ , the  $S$  is a  $\gamma_{pfpee}$ -set

**Observation 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph having a pitchfork pendant equitable domination  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$ , then

- (i)  $|V(G)| \geq 2$
- (ii)  $\delta_e(G) \geq 1$  and  $\Delta_e(G) \geq 1$
- (iii)  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq 2$
- (iv)  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = 2$  iff  $G = P_3$  or  $P_4$  or  $C_3$  or  $C_4$  or  $K_{1,2}$

**Observation 1.2.** If  $P_n$  and  $C_n$  are path and cycle graph then, we have

$$(1) \gamma_{pe}(P_n) = \gamma_{pfpee}(P_n)$$

$$(2) \gamma_{pe}(C_n) = \gamma_{pfpee}(C_n)$$

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph of size  $m$  having a pitchfork pendant equitable domination number  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$ , then

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \leq m \leq \binom{n}{2} + \gamma_{pfpee}^2(G) + (2 - n)\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$$

Proof. Let set  $S$  be a  $\gamma_{pfpee}$ -set of a graph  $G$ , then

**Case 1:** By the definition of the pitchfork pendant equitable domination, there exist at least one edge from  $S$  to  $V-S$ ,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \leq m$  which is the lower bound.

**Case 2:** To prove the upper bound, suppose that  $G[S]$  and  $G[V-S]$  are two complete subgraphs to be  $G$  have maximum number of edges where the number of edges of  $S$  and  $V-S$  equal to  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  respectively, then

$$m_1 = \frac{|S||S-1|}{2} = \frac{\gamma_{pfpee}(\gamma_{pfpee}-1)}{2}$$

$$m_2 = \frac{|V-S||V-S-1|}{2} = \frac{(n-\gamma_{pfpee})(n-\gamma_{pfpee}-1)}{2}$$

Now by the definition of pitchfork pendant equitable domination, there exist at most two edges from every vertex of  $S$  to  $V-S$ , then the number of edges from  $S$  to  $V-S$  is atmost or equal to  $2|D| = 2\gamma_{pfpee} = m_3$ , then the number of edges of  $G$  equals to

$$m = m_1 + m_2 + m_3$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{pfpee}^2 - \gamma_{pfpee}) + \frac{1}{2}(n^2 - n\gamma_{pfpee} - n - n\gamma_{pfpee} + \gamma_{pfpee}^2 + \gamma_{pfpee}) + 2\gamma_{pfpee} \\
&= \gamma_{pfpee}^2 - n\gamma_{pfpee} + 2\gamma_{pfpee} + \frac{n^2 - n}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

which is the upper bound in general.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph with pitchfork pendant equitable domination number

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(G), \text{ then, } \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil \leq \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \leq n - 1.$$

**Proof.** First we have to prove that lower bound, let  $S$  be a  $\gamma_{pfpee}$  set of  $G$  and  $v_i, v_j \in S$  where  $v_i \neq v_j$ , then we have two cases,

**Case 1:** If  $N_e(v_i) \cap N_e(v_j) \cap (V - D) = \emptyset$  then every vertex in  $V - S$  is dominated by exactly one vertex of  $S$ . Since  $S$  is a  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G)$ -set, then every vertex in  $S$  dominates at least one vertex of  $V - S$  so  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = \frac{n}{2}$ . And every vertex in  $S$  dominates at most two vertices of  $V - S$ , then we get the result.

**Case 2:** If  $N_e(v_i) \cap N_e(v_j) \cap (V - D) \neq \emptyset$ , then there exist one or more vertex  $s$  in  $V - S$  which is dominated by the two vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  of  $S$  together, then

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil. \text{ Therefore we get lower bound, } \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil \leq \gamma_{pfpee}(G).$$

The upper bound proved as follows : since every vertex in  $S$  dominates atleast one vertex and atmost two vertices of  $V - S$ , then  $G$  must contain atleast one vertex in  $V - S$  that is dominated by all the other  $n - 1$  vertices of  $G$  which will be belonging to  $S$ . Therefore  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \leq n - 1$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with pitchfork pendant equitable domination then,  $\gamma_e(G) \leq \gamma_{pee}(G) \leq \gamma_{pfpee}(G)$ .

**Proof.** From the definition of pitchfork pendant equitable domination, every PFPEEDS is a PEEDS and every PEDS is an EDS.

**Corollary 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph having a pitchfork pendant equitable domination number then:

$$(I) \quad \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\delta_e + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(II) \quad \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\Delta_e + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(III) \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\delta_e + \Delta_e + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(IV) \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\delta_e^n + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(V) \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\Delta_e^n + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(VI) \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\delta_e \Delta_e + 2} \right\rceil$$

$$(VII) \gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{\frac{\Delta_e}{\delta_e} + 2} \right\rceil$$

## 2 Pitchfork pendant equitable domination of some families of Graphs

Here, the pitchfork pendant equitable domination is determined for several known and modified families of graphs.

**Theorem2.1.** Let  $G$  be a path or cycle graph with  $n$  vertices. Then,

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{3} + 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 0(\text{mod}3) \\ \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil, & \text{if } n \equiv 1(\text{mod}3) \\ \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil + 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 2(\text{mod}3) \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let  $G$  be a path or cycle graph and let  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ . We consider the following possible cases here:

**Case1:** Suppose  $n \equiv 0(\text{mod}3)$ . Then  $n = 3k$ , for some integer  $k > 0$ . Then the set  $S = \{v_2, v_{3i} | 1 \leq i \leq k\}$  will be a pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set of  $G$  and each vertex in  $G$  dominates atmost two vertices of  $G$ . Hence,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \leq |S|$ .

i.e.,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = \frac{n}{3} + 1$ . On the other hand, we have  $\gamma_e(G) = \frac{n}{3}$  and any least dominating set of  $G$  contains only vertices of degree zero.

Thus  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) \geq \frac{n}{3} + 1$ . Therefore,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = \frac{n}{3} + 1$ .

46

**Case 2:** Suppose  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Then it is easy to check that any  $\gamma_e$ -set in  $G$  contains a pendant vertex and each vertex in  $\gamma_e$  set dominates atmost two vertices in  $G$ . Hence any  $\gamma_e$ -set in  $G$  itself a pitchfork pendant equitable dominating set in  $G$ .

Therefore,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(G) = \gamma_e(G) = \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil$ .

**Case3:** Proof of this case is analogous to Case 1.

**Observation2.1.** For a path graph  $P_n$  and cycle graph  $C_n$ , we have

$$(1) \quad \gamma_{pee}(P_n) = \gamma_{pfpee}(P_n)$$

$$(2) \quad \gamma_{pee}(C_n) = \gamma_{pfpee}(C_n)$$

**Theorem2.2.** Let  $G$  be the tadpole graph  $T_{m,n}$  where  $(m \geq 4)$  and  $(n \geq 3)$ . Then,

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(T_{m,n}) = \begin{cases} \frac{m}{3} + \left\lceil \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rceil + 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ \left\lceil \frac{m}{3} \right\rceil + \left\lceil \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rceil, & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \left\lceil \frac{m}{3} \right\rceil + \left\lceil \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rceil + 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** The tadpole graph contains a cycle  $C_m$  joined by a bridge to a path graph  $P_n$  then it contains  $m+n$  number of vertices and edges. The vertices of  $C_m$  can be labeled as  $\{u_j; j=1,2,\dots,m\}$  and also the vertices of  $P_n$  as  $\{v_i; i=1,2,\dots,n\}$  such that the vertex  $u_1 \in C_m$  is adjacent with the vertex  $v_n \in P_n$  and the vertex  $u_1$  dominates  $n^{\text{th}}$  vertex of  $P_n$  and  $\deg(u_1) = 3$ . Let the pitchfork pendant equitable dominating  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$  where  $S_1$  is a pendant equitable dominating set of  $C_m$  and  $S_2$  is the equitable dominating set of  $P_{n-1}$ . According to  $m$  we have three cases.

**Case1:** If  $m = 3k$ , then let  $S_1 = \{v_1, v_{3i} | 1 \leq i \leq k\}$  and  $S_2 = \{u_{3i-1}, i =$

$1, 2, \dots, \left\lceil \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rceil\}$ . Therefore the set  $S = |S_1| + |S_2| = \frac{m}{3} + \left\lceil \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rceil + 1$

**Case2:** If  $m = 3k+1$ , then any equitable dominating set of  $C_m$  contains a pendant Equitable vertex and dominates atmost two vertices and the vertex  $u_n$  is dominated

By the vertex  $v_1 \in C_m$ . Therefore, the set

$$S = \gamma_{pee}(C_m) + \gamma_{pee}P(n-1) = \left\lfloor \frac{m}{3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{n-1}{3} \right\rfloor$$

Is a minimum PFPEEDS of  $T_{m,n}$

**Case3:** Proof of this case is analogous to Case 1.

**Theorem2.3.** For the lollipop graph  $L_{m,n}$ ;  $m=3,4$ ,  $n \geq 2$  we have,

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(L_{m,n}) = \gamma_{pee}(K_m) + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$$

Proof. All the vertices of  $K_m$  can be labeled as  $\{v_i; i=1,2,\dots,m\}$  and the vertices of  $P_n$  as  $\{u_j; j=1,2,\dots,n\}$ , where the vertex  $v_1$  is adjacent with a vertex  $u_n$ .

The set  $S = S' \cup \gamma_e(P_n)$  will be a minimum PFPEEDS of  $L_{m,n}$  where  $S'$  is the PEDS of  $K_m$ .

$$\text{Therefore } \gamma_{pfpee}(L_{m,n}) = |S| = \gamma_{pee}(K_m) + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$$

**Proposition2.1.** If  $G \cong L_{m,n}$ ,  $m > 4$ ,  $n > 3$ ,

$$\text{then } \gamma_{pfpee}(L_{m,n}) = \gamma_{pee}(P_n) + \left\lfloor \frac{m}{3} \right\rfloor$$

3

**Theorem2.4.** Let  $G$  be a wheel graph  $W_n$  where  $n \geq 6$ , then

$$\gamma_{pfpee}(W_n) = 3 + \left\lfloor \frac{n-5}{3} \right\rfloor$$

Proof. Let  $W_n$  be a wheel graph and let us label the vertices of  $W_n$  as:  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n+1}\}$  where  $\deg(v_i)=3$  for all  $i=1,2,\dots,n$  and  $\deg(v_{n+1})=n$ . The set  $S' = \{v_1, v_2, v_{n+1}\}$  is a PEDS of the graph  $W_n$ . Here the vertex  $v_1$  dominates two vertices  $v_2$  and  $v_{n-1}$  and the vertex  $v_{n+1}$  is equitable isolate. The set  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_{n+1}\} \cup \{v_4, v_5, \dots, v_{n-4}, v_{n-3}\}$  will be a PFPEEDS of  $W_n$ .

$$\text{Therefore, } \gamma_{pfpee}(W_n) = |S| = 3 + \left\lfloor \frac{n-5}{3} \right\rfloor$$

**Theorem2.5.** Let  $D_{m,n}$  be the daisy graph ,then  $\gamma_{pfpee}(D_{m,n}) = \gamma_{pee}(C_m) + \left\lceil \frac{n-2}{3} \right\rceil$   
46

Proof. The daisy graph contains two cycles  $C_m$  and  $C_n$  with common vertex. Let us label the vertices of  $C_m$  as  $\{u_i; i=1,2,...,m\}$  so that the vertices of  $C_n$  as  $\{v_j; j=1,2,...,n\}$ . The set  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$  is a  $\gamma_{pfpee}$ -set of daisy graph where  $S_1$  is the PEDS of  $C_m$  and  $S_2$  is the EDS of  $C_{n-2}$ . Therefore  $\gamma_{pfpee}(D_{m,n}) = |S| = \gamma_{pee}(C_m) + \left\lceil \frac{n-2}{3} \right\rceil$

**Theorem2.6.** Let  $G \cong P_{2,n}$  be a grid graph where  $n \geq 2$  ,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(P_{2,n}) = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$

Proof. If  $n=2$ , then its easy to find out the pitchfork pendant equitable domination number of grid graph  $P_{2,2}$ . If  $n \geq 3$ , then a minimum PFPEEDS of  $P_{2,n}$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) is presented as follows.

Let  $n = 3q$ . Here, we split the set of columns of  $P_{2,n}$  into blocks  $B_i$ , where  $B_i \cong P_{2,3}$  For  $i=1,...,q$ . The vertices • enclosed within the round symbol in each of the blocks in the figures represent the vertices to be included for a minimal PFPEEDS  $D$ .

Let  $P_i = \{X_{1,3i-1}, X_{2,3i-1}\}, i = 1, 2, ..., q$ .

Let  $D = \cup_{i=1}^q P_i$  Therefore  $|D| = 2 \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil$

**Case1:**  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

Consider the set  $D_1 = D \cup \{X_{2,n}\}$  (Figure 2.2(a)). This set is a equitable dominating set and induced subgraph of  $D_1$  contains a pendant equitable vertex and each vertex in  $D_1$  dominates maximum two vertices in  $G$ . Therefore , the set  $D_1$  is a minimal

PFPEEDS of  $P_{2,n}$ . Hence ,  $|D_1| = 2 \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil + 1 = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$

**Case2:**  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$

Here the set  $D_2 = D \cup \{X_{1,n}, X_{2,n}\}$  (Figure2.2(b)) is a minimal PFPEEDS of  $P_{2,n}$ .

Hence ,  $|D_2| = 2 \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil + 2 = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$

**Case3:**  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

In this case ,the set  $D_3 = D \cup \{X_{1,n-1}, X_{2,n-1}\}$  (Figure2.2(c)) is a minimal PFPEEDS of  $P_{2,n}$  and  $|D_3| = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$

From all the cases ,  $\gamma_{pfpee}(P_{2,n}) = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$



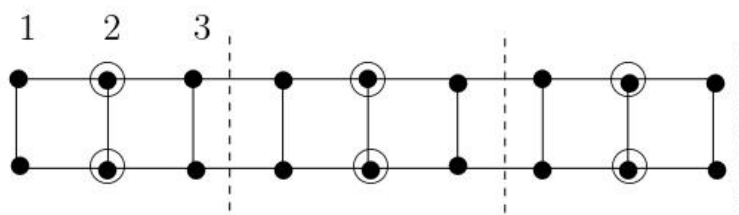


Figure 2.1

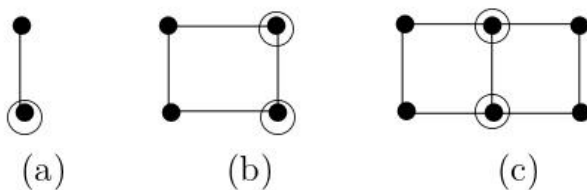


Figure 2.2

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