

## Nonsplit domsaturation number of a graph

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The nonsplit domsaturation number of a graph  $G$ ,  $ds_{ns}(G)$  is the least positive integer  $k$  such that every vertex of  $G$  lies in a nonsplit dominating set of cardinality  $k$ . In this paper, we obtain certain bounds for  $ds_{ns}(G)$  and characterize the graphs which attain these bounds.

### I. Introduction

By a graph  $G = (V, E)$  we mean a finite, undirected graph without loops or multiple edges. The order and size of  $G$  are denoted by  $p$  and  $q$  respectively. For graph theoretical terms we refer to Harary [6] and for terms related to domination we refer Haynes et al.[7]

A subset  $D$  of  $V$  is said to be a dominating set in  $G$  if every vertex in  $V - D$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $D$ .

Kulli and Janakiram introduced the concept of nonsplit domination in graphs [9]. A dominating set  $D$  of a graph  $G$  is a *nonsplit dominating set* if  $\langle V - D \rangle$  is connected. The *nonsplit domination number*  $\gamma_{ns}(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality of a nonsplit dominating set. A nonsplit dominating set with cardinality  $\gamma_{ns}(G)$  is called a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set.

Acharya[1] introduced the concept of domsaturation number of a graph. The least positive integer  $k$  such that every vertex of  $G$  lies in a dominating set of cardinality  $k$  is called the domsaturation number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $ds(G)$ . A detailed study of this parameter was already done by Arumugam and Kala[2]. In this paper, we define nonsplit domsaturation number of a graph. We determine the value of this parameter for several classes of graphs, obtain bounds for this parameter and also characterize the graphs which attain these bounds.

### II. Main Results

**Example 2.1** (i) If  $G \cong K_p$  then  $ds_{ns}(G) = 1$ .

(ii) If  $G \cong K_{m,n}$  ( $2 \leq m \leq n$ ) then  $ds_{ns}(G) = 2$ .

**Proposition 2.2** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq p - 1$ . Further equality holds if and only if  $G$  is a star.

*Proof.* Every set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  with  $|S| = p - 1$  is a nonsplit dominating set of  $G$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq p - 1$ .

If  $G$  is a star, clearly  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = p - 1$ . Suppose  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = p - 1$ . If  $G$  is not a star, then  $G$  has an edge  $e = uv$  such that both  $u$  and  $v$  are non-pendent vertices. Now  $V(G) - \{u, v\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set of  $G$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq p - 2$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $G$  is a star.

**Corollary 2.3** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  if and only if  $G$  is a galaxy.

**Proposition 2.4** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq ds_{ns}(G) \leq \min\{\gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G), p - 1\}$  and these bounds are sharp.

*Proof.* Lower bound is obvious. Suppose  $ds_{ns}(G) = \gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G) + k$ , where  $k \geq 1$ . Then there exists a vertex  $v \in V(G)$  such that the minimum cardinality of a nonsplit dominating set  $A$  containing  $v$  is  $\gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G) + k$ . If  $S$  is any  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set, then  $v \notin S$ . Also  $S \cap N(v) \neq \emptyset$ . As  $|A| = \gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G) + k$ , by choice of  $v$ ,  $\langle V - (S \cup \{v\}) \rangle$  has  $\Delta(G) + k - 1$  isolated vertices so that  $|N(v)| \geq \Delta(G) + k$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $ds_{ns}(G) \leq \gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G)$ . Always  $ds_{ns}(G) \leq p - 1$  and so  $ds_{ns}(G) \leq \min\{\gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G), p - 1\}$ .

If  $G \cong C_p$ ,  $ds_{ns}(G) = \gamma_{ns}(G) = p - 2$  and so the lower bound is sharp. If  $G \cong B(2,2)$ , then  $ds_{ns}(G) = 5$  and  $\min\{\gamma_{ns}(G) + \Delta(G), p - 1\} = \min\{7, 5\} = 5$ . Thus the upper bound is also sharp.

**Theorem 2.5** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then  $ds_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  if and only if  $G \cong G_i (1 \leq i \leq 2)$  where  $G_i (1 \leq i \leq 2)$  are given in Fig. 1.*

(2, -1)(3, 2) [dotscale = 1](-2.3, 0)(-2, -2)(0, -1.5)(-4.3, -1.5)(6, 0)(4, -2)(3, -4)(5, -4.3)(6, -2)(5.5, -4.1)(7.5, -4.3)(8, -1.7)(9.2, -3.4)(9.5, -1)(4.6, 1)(7, 1) (-4.3, -1.5)(-2.3, 0)(-2, -2) (-2.3, 0)(0, -1.5) (6, 0)(4, -2)(3, -4) (4, -2)(5, -4.3) (6, 0)(6, -2)(5.5, -4.1) (6, -2)(7.5, -4.3) (6, 0)(8, -1.7)(9.2, -3.4) (8, -1.7)(9.5, -1) (4.6, 1)(6, 0)(7, 1) [dotscale = .65](-1.5, -1.9)(-1, -1.8)(-.5, -1.64) [dotscale = .65](5.1, 1)(5.8, 1)(6.5, 1) [dotscale = .65](9.275, -2.9)(9.35, -2.2)(9.425, -1.5) [dotscale = .65](3.5, -4.075)(4, -4.15)(4.5, -4.225) [dotscale = .65](6, -4.15)(6.5, -4.2)(7, -4.25) [dotscale = .65](6.5, -1.9)(7, -1.8)(7.5, -1.7)

*Proof.* If  $ds_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  then there exists at least one vertex  $v \in V(G)$  such that the only minimal nonsplit dominating set containing  $v$  is of cardinality  $p - 1$ .

**Case(i) :**  $v$  is a pendent vertex.

In this case, we have  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  by choice of  $v$ . Hence by Proposition 2.1  $G \cong G_1$ .

**Case (ii) :**  $v$  is a non-pendent vertex.

Let  $N(v) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} (k \geq 2)$ . If there exists an edge  $(v_i, v_j) \in \langle N(v) \rangle$ ,  $(1 \leq i, j \leq k)$  then  $V(G) - \{v_i, v_j\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set containing  $v$  and so  $\langle N(v) \rangle$  is independent.

We now claim that every vertex in  $V(G) - N[v]$  is a pendent vertex. Suppose there exists  $u \in V(G) - N[v]$  such that  $d(u) \geq 2$ . Since  $G$  is connected, there exists a  $u - v$  path  $P$  with length at least 2. Let  $w \in N(u) \cap P$ . Then  $V(G) - \{u, w\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set containing  $v$  and hence  $G \cong G_2$ .

Converse is obvious.

The following is immediate.

**Corollary 2.6** *Let  $G$  be any graph. Then  $ds_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  if and only if every component of  $G$  is isomorphic to any one of the graphs in Fig. 1.*

**Theorem 2.7** *For any tree  $T$ ,  $ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = \gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$  if and only if  $T$  is not isomorphic to  $B(r, s)$  where at least one of  $r$  or  $s$  equals 1.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $T \cong B(r, s)$  where  $r = s = 1$ . Then  $T \cong P_4$  and  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{P}_4) = 2$ . But  $ds_{ns}(\bar{P}_4) = 3$ . Hence  $T \not\cong B(r, s)$  where  $r = s = 1$ . If  $T \cong B(r, s)$  with exactly one of  $\{r, s\}$  having value 1, then there is no  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  of cardinality 2 containing  $u$ . These contradictions exhibit that  $T$  is not isomorphic to  $B(r, s)$  where at least one of  $r$  and  $s$  equals 1.

Conversely assume that  $T$  is a tree not isomorphic to  $B(r, s)$  where at least one of  $r$  and  $s$  equals 1. If  $T \cong K_{1,p-1}$  then  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2 = ds_{ns}(\bar{T})$ . If  $T \not\cong K_{1,p-1}$ , then there exists at least 2 pendent vertices  $u$  and

$v$  with distinct supports  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  respectively such that  $deg(u_1) \leq p-3$  and  $deg(v_1) \leq p-3$ .

**Case(i) :**  $deg(u_1) = p-3$  and  $deg(v_1) = p-3$ .

If  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are adjacent then  $T \cong T_1$  where  $T_1$  is given in Fig. 2.

$$(3, -1)(3, 1) [\text{dotscale} = 1.5](0, 0)(2, 0)(-1.5, -1)(-1.5, 1)(3.5, 1)(3.5, -1) (-1.5, 1)(0, 0)(2, 0)(3.5, 1) (-1.5, -1)(0, 0) (2, 0)(3.5, -1)$$

$\{v, v_1\}, \{v_2, v_1\}, \{u, u_1\}, \{u_2, u_1\}$  are all minimum nonsplit dominating sets of  $\bar{T}$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ . If  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are non-adjacent then  $T \cong P_5$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ .

**Case(ii) :**  $deg(u_1) = p-3$  and  $deg(v_1) \neq p-3$ .

If  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are adjacent, then  $T \cong T_2$  where  $T_2$  is given in Fig. 3.

$$(-1, -1)(3, 0) [\text{dotscale} = 1.5](-2, 0)(2, 0)(2, -1.5)(-1, -1.5)(-3, -1.5)(3.5, -.7)(.2, -1.5) (2, -1.5)(2, 0)(-2, 0)(-1, -1.5) (-2, 0)(-3, -1.5) (2, 0)(3.5, -.7) (-2, 0)(.2, -1.5) [\text{dotscale} = .65](-.7, -1.5)(-.4, -1.5)(-.1, -1.5)$$

Since  $d(v_1) \neq p-3$ ,  $d(v_1) \geq 4$ . For every  $u' \in N(u_1)$ ,  $\{u_1, u'\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  and for every  $v' \in N(v_1)$ ,  $\{v_1, v'\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ . If  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are non-adjacent then  $T \cong T_3$  where  $T_3$  is given in Fig. 4.

$$(-1.5, -1)(3, .5) [\text{dotscale} = 1.5](-2, 0)(0, 0)(2, 0)(2, -1.5)(-1, -1.5)(-3, -1.5) (2, -1.5)(2, 0)(0, 0)(-2, 0)(-1, -1.5) (-2, 0)(-3, -1.5) [\text{dotscale} = .65](-1.5, -1.5)(-2, -1.5)(-2.5, -1.5)$$

As above  $deg(u_1) \geq 3$ . For every  $u' \in N(u_1)$ ,  $\{u', u_1\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$ . Also  $\{u_1, v\}$  and  $\{v_1, u\}$  are  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ .

**Case(iii) :**  $deg(u_1) \neq p-3$  and  $deg(v_1) = p-3$ .

This is analogous to case(ii).

**Case(iv) :**  $deg(u_1) \neq p-3$  and  $deg(v_1) \neq p-3$ .

If  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are adjacent then  $deg(u_1) \geq 4$  and  $deg(v_1) \geq 4$  and for every  $u' \in N(u_1)$ ,  $\{u_1, u'\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  and for every  $v' \in N(v_1)$ ,  $\{v_1, v'\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  so that  $ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = \gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ .

Suppose  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are non-adjacent. Then  $deg(u_1) \geq 3$  and  $deg(v_1) \geq 3$ . For every  $x \in V(T)$  with  $d(u_1, x) \neq 2$ ,  $\{x, u_1\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  containing  $x$  and if  $d(u_1, x) = 2$ ,  $\{x, u\}$  is a  $\gamma_{ns}$ -set of  $\bar{T}$  containing  $x$ . The  $\gamma_{ns}$ -sets containing neighbours of  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  are as above. Thus  $ds_{ns}(\bar{T}) = \gamma_{ns}(\bar{T}) = 2$ .

**Theorem 2.8** *There exists a graph  $G$  for which  $ds_{ns}(G) - ds(G)$  can be made arbitrarily large.*

*Proof.* Let  $P_{p-k} = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{p-k}\}$  be a path on  $p-k$  vertices where  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$  and let  $S = \{v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$ . Join the vertex  $v$  to each of the vertices in  $P_{p-1}$  and to each vertex in  $S - \{v\}$ . The resulting graph  $G$  is of order  $p$  and  $\gamma(G) = 1$ . Also  $\{v, u_i\} (1 \leq i \leq p-k)$  and  $\{v, v_j\} (1 \leq j \leq k-1)$  are minimal dominating sets containing  $u_i, u_j$  respectively so that  $ds(G) = 2$ .

$S$  is a minimum nonsplit dominating set of  $G$  and so  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = k$ . If  $k = p-1$  or  $p-2$ ,  $ds_{ns}(G) = k$ . Suppose  $k \leq p-3$ .  $S \cup \{u_1\}$ ,  $S \cup \{u_{p-k}\}$ ,  $(S - \{v\}) \cup \{u_2, u_5, \dots\}$ ,  $(S - \{v\}) \cup \{u_1, u_3, u_6, \dots\}$  and  $(S - \{v\}) \cup \{u_1, u_4, u_7, \dots\}$  are all nonsplit dominating sets of  $G$  and so

$$ds_{ns}(G) = k + \left\lfloor \frac{p-k}{3} \right\rfloor \text{ or } k + \left\lceil \frac{p-k}{3} \right\rceil \text{ according as } p-k \equiv 0,1(mod 3) \text{ or } p-k \equiv 2(mod 3).$$

Thus  $ds_{ns}(G) - ds(G) = k + \left\lfloor \frac{p-k}{3} \right\rfloor - 2$  or  $k + \left\lceil \frac{p-k}{3} \right\rceil - 2$  where  $k$  can be chosen arbitrarily large.

**Theorem 2.9** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $ds_{ns}(G) + diam(G) \leq 2p - 2$  and equality holds if and only if  $G \cong P_p$  ( $p \leq 5$ ).

*Proof.* Since  $G$  is connected,  $diam(G) \leq p - 1$ . Always  $ds_{ns}(G) \leq p - 1$  and so  $ds_{ns}(G) + diam(G) \leq 2p - 2$ . Suppose  $ds_{ns}(G) + diam(G) = 2p - 2$ . Then  $ds_{ns}(G) = p - 1$  and  $diam(G) = p - 1$ . Since  $ds_{ns}(G) = p - 1$ , by Theorem ?? we observe that  $diam(G) \leq 4$  and so  $p \leq 5$ . For any graph on  $p$  vertices other than  $P_p$  we have  $ds_{ns}(G) + diam(G) \neq 2p - 2$  and so  $G \cong P_p$  ( $p \leq 5$ ). Converse is obvious.

**Theorem 2.10** For any connected graph  $G$  with at least two pendent vertices,  $ds(G) + ds(\overline{G}) \leq ds_{ns}(G) + ds_{ns}(\overline{G}) \leq p + 2$ . Also the bounds are sharp.

*Proof.* For any graph  $G$ ,  $ds(G) \leq ds_{ns}(G)$ ,  $ds(\overline{G}) \leq ds_{ns}(\overline{G})$  and so  $ds(G) + ds(\overline{G}) \leq ds_{ns}(G) + ds_{ns}(\overline{G})$ . Always  $ds_{ns}(G) \leq p - 1$ . To establish the upper bound it is enough to prove that  $ds_{ns}(\overline{G}) \leq 3$ . Let  $P = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  be the set of pendent vertices of  $G$  and  $S = \{v_i \mid (1 \leq i \leq m)\}$  be the set of corresponding supports (not necessarily distinct). If  $m \geq 3$  and there exists an index  $i$  such that  $\{V(G) - \{u_i, v_i\}\}$  has two distinct supports then  $A = \{u_i, v_i\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set of  $\overline{G}$ . If  $w$  is the unique support in  $\langle V(G) - \{u_i, v_i\} \rangle$  then  $\{u_i, v_i, w\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set of  $\overline{G}$ . Otherwise  $v_i$  is the only support of  $G$  and  $A = \{u_i, v_i\}$  is a nonsplit dominating set of  $\overline{G}$ . For every other vertex  $x$ ,  $A \cup \{x\}$  is nonsplit dominating set of  $\overline{G}$ . Hence  $ds_{ns}(\overline{G}) \leq 3$ .

Suppose  $m = 2$ . Let the two pendent vertices be  $u$  and  $v$  with supports  $u_1$  and  $v_1$  respectively.

**Case(i) :**  $u_1 = v_1$

Let  $D = V(G) - \{u, v, u_1\}$ . If  $D = \emptyset$  then  $\{u, v_1\}$  and  $\{v, v_1\}$  are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ . If  $D \neq \emptyset$  then  $\{u, v_1\}$ ,  $\{v, v_1\}$  and  $\{u, v_1, x\}$  [where  $x \in V(G) - \{u, v, u_1\}$ ] are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ .

**Case(ii) :**  $u_1 \neq v_1$ .

If  $(u_1, v_1) \notin E(G)$  then  $\{v, u_1\}, \{u, v_1\}$  and  $\{u, v_1, x\}$  [where  $x \in V(G) - \{u, v, u_1, v_1\}$ ] are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ . Suppose  $(u_1, v_1) \in E(G)$  and let  $B = V(G) - \{u, v, u_1, v_1\}$ . If  $B = \emptyset$  then  $\{v, v_1, u_1\}$  and  $\{v_1, u_1, u\}$  are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ . Suppose  $B \neq \emptyset$ . If  $|B| \geq 2$  then  $\{v, v_1\}, \{u, u_1\}, \{x, u_1\}$  ( $x \in B$ ) are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ . If  $|B| = 1$  and  $B = \{w\}$  then  $\{u_1, v_1, w\}$ ,  $\{u, u_1, v_1\}, \{u_1, v_1, v\}$  are nonsplit dominating sets of  $\overline{G}$ . Hence  $ds_{ns}(\overline{G}) \leq 3$ . Thus  $ds_{ns}(G) + ds_{ns}(\overline{G}) \leq p + 2$ .

Lower bound is attained for  $K_2$  and upper bound for  $P_4$ . Hence the bounds are sharp.

**Definition 2.11** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. The maximum order of a partition of  $V$  into nonsplit

dominating sets of  $G$  is called the nonsplit domatic number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $d_{ns}(G)$ .

**Definition 2.12** A graph  $G$  with  $d_{ns}(G) = \delta(G) + 1$  is said to be nonsplit domatically full.

**Theorem 2.13** If  $G$  is a  $k$ -regular graph which is nonsplit domatically full then  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = ds_{ns}(G)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $G$  is nonsplit domatically full,  $d_{ns}(G) = k + 1$ . Let  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{k+1}\}$  be a nonsplit domatic partition of  $G$ . Any set  $D_i$  either contains a vertex  $u$  or exactly one of its neighbours. Hence, each  $D_i$  is independent. Also, for all  $1 \leq j \leq k + 1, i \neq j$ , every vertex in  $D_i$  is adjacent to exactly one vertex in  $D_j$ . Hence all sets  $D_i$  are of equal cardinality and  $|D_i| = \gamma_{ns}(G)$ . Hence  $\gamma_{ns}(G) = ds_{ns}(G)$ .

**Remark 2.14** The converse of theorem 2.13 is not true. The 3-regular graph  $G$  given in Fig.5 is not nonsplit domatically full.

$(-5, -1)(3, 2)$  [dotscale = 1.5](-3.5, 0)(4, 0)(-1.5, 1)(1.5, 1)(-1.5, -1)(1.5, -1) (-3.5, 0)(4, 0) (-3.5, 0)(-1.5, 1)(1.5, 1)(4, 0) (-3.5, 0)(-1.5, -1)(1.5, -1)(4, 0) (-1.5, 1)(-1.5, -1) (1.5, 1)(1.5, -1)

We observe that  $ds_{ns}(G) = \gamma_{ns}(G) = 2$ .

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