

## Private Edge Domination Number of a Graph

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### Abstract

A set  $S \subseteq E$  is said to be a private edge dominating set, if it is an edge dominating set, for every  $e \in S$  has at least one external private neighbor in  $E \setminus S$ . Let  $\gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  and  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  denote the minimum and maximum cardinalities, respectively, of a private edge dominating sets in a graph  $G$ . In this paper we characterize connected graph for which  $\gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq q/2$  and the graph for some upper bounds. The private edge domination numbers of several classes of graphs are determined.

*Keywords:* Edge domination; Perfect domination; Private domination; Edge irredundant sets.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a simple connected graph [1] with  $|V| = p$  and  $|E| = q$ ,  $q \geq 2$ . A set  $S \subseteq E$  is an edge dominating set if each edge in  $E$  is either in  $S$  or is adjacent to an edge in  $S$  and is an independent edge dominating set if edges of  $S$  are independent. The edge domination number  $\gamma'(G)$  is the minimum cardinality among all minimal edge dominating sets, and  $\Gamma'(G)$  is the maximum cardinality among all minimal edge dominating sets of  $G$  [2]. The minimum and the maximum cardinalities taken over all maximal independent edge dominating sets of  $G$  is denoted by  $i'(G)$  and  $\beta'(G)$ . The open neighborhood of an edge  $e$ , denoted  $N(e)$ , is the set  $\{e' \in E: e \text{ is adjacent to } e'\}$  and the closed neighborhood of  $e$ , denoted  $N[e] = \{e\} \cup N(e)$ . For  $e \in S \subseteq E$ , we define  $P_n[e, S] = N[e] - N[S - \{e\}]$ . If  $P_n[e, S] \neq \Phi$  then  $e$  is said to be an edge irredundant in  $S$ . The set  $S \subseteq E$  is said to be an edge irredundant set if  $P_n[e, S] \neq \Phi$  for all  $e \in S$ . The

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minimum and maximum cardinalities taken over all maximal edge irredundant sets of edges of  $G$  is  $ir'(G)$  and  $IR'(G)$ , respectively [2]. If  $P_n(e, S) = N(e) - N(S - \{e\}) = e'$ , then the edge  $e'$  is an external edge private neighbor of  $e$ .

An edge subset  $S$  in a graph  $G$  is said to be perfect edge dominating set in  $G$  if each edge of the complementary graph  $E \setminus S$  of  $S$  in  $G$  is adjacent to exactly one edge in  $S$ . The minimum cardinality among the perfect edge dominating sets in a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $\gamma'_p(G)$ . A set  $S \subseteq E$  is said to be a private edge dominating set, if it is an edge dominating set, every  $e \in S$  has at least one external private neighbor in  $E \setminus S$ . The minimum and maximum cardinalities taken over all private edge dominating sets in a graph  $G$  is called a private edge domination numbers  $\gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  and  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ . It can be observed that the minimum cardinality of a private dominating set is always equal to  $\gamma'(G)$ . For a real number  $x$ ,  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  denotes the largest integer not greater than  $x$  and  $\lceil x \rceil$  denotes the smallest integer not less than  $x$ . An edge dominating set  $S$  is a minimal edge dominating set if no proper subset  $S' \subset S$  is an edge dominating set. An edge dominating set  $S$  is a maximal edge dominating set if no super subset  $S' \supset S$  is an edge dominating set. The degree of an edge  $e = uv$  is defined to be  $\deg(u) + \deg(v) - 2$ .

The notion of private dominating set has been introduced as a concept by Bollobas and Cockayne [3]. Further studied by B.J Prasad and etl [5]. In this paper we carried out private domination number for edge set of a graph. Also we characterize certain properties of private edge domination number, and we obtain certain bounds and connection with other edge domination related parameters.

**2. Some Basic Results**

**Theorem (Existence Theorem)**

**2.1:** A graph  $G$ , without isolated edges and  $q \geq 2$  has a minimum edge dominating set which is also a private edge dominating set.

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a  $\gamma'(G)$  set for which the number of edges in  $\langle S \rangle$  having an open private edge neighbor is maximum. If an edge  $e' \in S$  does not have an open private edge neighbor, then it must be isolated in  $\langle S \rangle$ . Since  $G$  has no isolated edge,  $e'$  must be adjacent at least one edge say  $e''$  in  $E \setminus S$ . But in this case  $S \setminus \{e'\} \cup \{e''\}$  is a minimum edge dominating set, in which an edge  $e''$  has an edge  $e'$  as an open private edge neighbor, contradiction to the minimality of a number of edges in  $S$  having an open private edge neighbor. Thus  $S$  must be a Private edge dominating set. □

**Observations 2.2:**

1. For any graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma'(G) \leq \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ .
2. For any complete graph  $K_p$  with  $p \geq 3$   $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \lfloor \frac{p}{2} \rfloor$ .
3. For any path  $P_p$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor$

4. For any bipartite graph complete graph  $K_{m,n}$   $m, n \geq 2$  ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \max\{m, n\}$  .
5. For any graph  $G$  ,  $1 \leq \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor$  .
6. For any graph  $G$  ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \Gamma'(G) \leq IR'(G)$  .

**Theorem 2.3:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $|S| = \gamma(G)$ , then  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \sum_{e \in S} d(e)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set of a graph  $G$  . Suppose  $e_1 \in S$  there exist an edge  $e_2 \in E \setminus S$  , satisfying  $N(e_2) \cap S = \{e_1\}$  . Then  $E \setminus S$  is a dominating set of  $S$  .

$$\gamma(G) \leq |E \setminus S| \leq q - \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \tag{1}$$

Also we have in ref. [4]  $|E(G)| \setminus \gamma(G) \leq \sum_{e \in S} d(e)$  ,  $\gamma(G) \geq q - \sum_{e \in S} d(e)$

Now from (1)  $q - \sum_{e \in S} d(e) \leq q - \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  . Therefore  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \sum_{e \in S} d(e)$  □

**Theorem 2.4:** Every minimal private edge dominating set is edge dominating and edge irredundant.

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a graph,  $S$  be a minimal private edge dominating set of  $G$  , which implies that every element of  $S$  contains at least one external private edge neighbor. This implies  $S$  is edge irredundant. □

**Remark 2.5.** Converse of the Theorem 2.4 is not true.

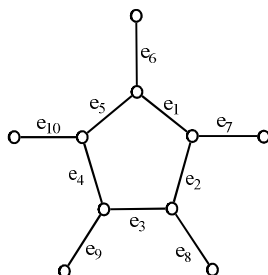


Fig. 1.

In Fig.1  $S = \{e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9, e_{10}\}$  is edge irredundant and edge dominating, but not private edge dominating set.

**Theorem 2.6:** Every minimal private edge dominating set is maximal irredundant edge set of  $G$  .

**Proof.** Assume that  $S$  is a minimal private edge dominating set. To show that  $S$  is a maximal edge irredundant set of  $G$  . Suppose it is not true, that is if  $S$  is not a maximal

irredundant edge set, there must exist an edge  $e_1 \in E \setminus S$  for which  $S \cup \{e_1\}$  is irredundant. This means in particular that  $P_n[e_1, S \cup \{e_1\}] \neq \Phi$ . i.e there exists at least one edge  $e_2$  which is a private edge neighbor of  $e_1$  with respect to  $S \cup \{e_1\}$ . But this means that no edge in  $S$  is adjacent to  $e_2$ , that is  $S$  is not a dominating set. This contradicts that  $S$  is edge dominating set. □

**Remark 2.7:** But the converse of the Theorem 2.6 is not true.

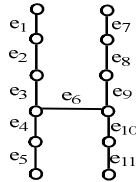


Fig.2

In Fig.2  $S = \{e_2, e_3, e_8, e_9\}$  is a maximal edge irredundant set not minimal private edge dominating set.

**Theorem 2.8:** For every  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  -set is a minimal edge dominating set.

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  a set of a graph  $G$ . Then every edge in  $S$  has an external private edge neighbor in  $E \setminus S$ . Hence  $S$  is a minimal edge dominating set of  $G$ . □

**Remark 2.9:** The converse of the Theorem 2.8 is not true.

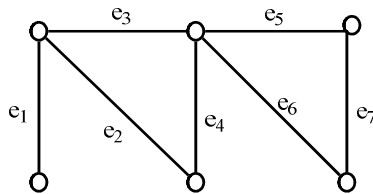


Fig. 3

In Fig.3  $S = \{e_1, e_4, e_7\}$  is a minimal edge dominating set but not a private edge dominating set.

### 3. Bounds for Private Edge Domination Number

**Theorem 3.1:** For any tree  $T$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq q - \Delta'$  Equality holds for wounded spider and star graphs.

**Proof.** Let  $e'$  be any edge having maximum degree  $\Delta'$  in a tree  $T$ . Let  $S$  be maximum private edge dominating set of  $G$ . Suppose  $e' \in S$ . If all the edges adjacent to  $e'$  are in  $E \setminus S$  then we are through. Otherwise if some of its neighbor is in  $S$  the corresponding to each one of them there will be at least one edge in  $E \setminus S$  and hence the theorem follows. Hence in these case  $|E \setminus S| \geq \Delta'$  Further suppose  $e'$  not in  $S$ , in this case for each  $e'' \in N(e') \cup S$  then there exists an external private neighbor in  $E \setminus S$ . Hence  $|E \setminus S| \geq \Delta'$ . It is easy to see that the equality holds for wounded spider and star graphs.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2:** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set of a graph  $G$ , for any edge  $e \in S$ ,

$$\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq q - \deg(e)$$

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ -set of  $G$ . Let the degree of  $e$  be  $k_1$ . Assume that  $e$  is adjacent to  $k$  edges in  $S$ , then the edge  $e$  is adjacent to  $k_1 - k$  edges in  $E \setminus S$ .

If  $k > 0$ , then each neighbor of  $e$  in  $S$  must have an external private neighbor in  $E \setminus S$ , and these edges must be distinct and so  $|E \setminus S| \geq (k_1 - k) + k = d(e)$ . Therefore  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq q - \deg(e)$

If  $k = 0$ , then  $|E \setminus S| \geq k_1 = d(e)$ . Hence  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq q - \deg(e)$   $\square$

**Remark 3.3:** It is easy to see that equality holds for wounded spider and star graphs.

**Theorem 3.4:** For a graph  $G$ , an edge dominating set  $S$  and its complement  $E \setminus S$  are private edge dominating set in  $G$  if and only if  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \frac{q}{2}$ .

**Proof.** Clearly  $|E|$  is even  $S$  is a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set such that  $|S| = \frac{q}{2}$ . This implies that  $|E \setminus S| = \frac{q}{2}$ , for every  $e \in S$  there exists a unique edge  $e' \in E \setminus S$  adjacent to  $e$  and hence  $|E \setminus S|$  also a private edge dominating set of  $G$ . Conversely suppose  $S$  and  $E \setminus S$  are private edge dominating set of  $G$ , then  $|S| \leq \frac{q}{2}$  and  $|E \setminus S| \leq \frac{q}{2}$ . If  $|S| < \frac{q}{2}$  then  $|E \setminus S| > \frac{q}{2}$ , which implies that  $E \setminus S$  is not a private edge dominating set, a contradiction. Hence  $|S| = \frac{q}{2}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.5:** If  $G$  has odd number of edges, then both edge dominating sets and its complement cannot be private edge dominating set of  $G$ .

**Theorem 3.6:** Let  $G$  be a graph, suppose a minimal edge dominating set  $S$  of a graph  $G$  is a perfect edge dominating set, then it is also a private edge dominating set of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a minimal edge dominating set of  $G$ , which is also a perfect edge dominating set of  $G$ . If an edge  $e \in S$  is adjacent to an edge  $e_1 \in E \setminus S$ , then it will be an external private neighbor of  $e$  otherwise  $e$  will be adjacent to at least one edge other

than  $e_1 \in E \setminus S$ , which is a contradiction to the definition of perfect edge dominating set. Also if  $e \in S$  is adjacent to no edge in  $E \setminus S$ , then  $E \setminus \{e\}$  is an edge dominating set of  $G$ , which is a contradiction to the minimality.  $\square$

**Remark 3.7:** Converse of the Theorem 3.6 is not true.

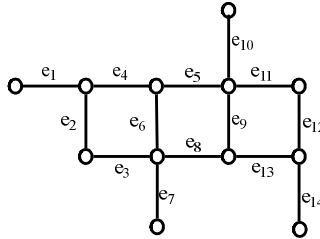


Fig. 4

In Fig. 4,  $S = \{e_1, e_3, e_{11}, e_{14}\}$  is a minimal edge dominating set and private edge dominating set but not perfect.

**Theorem 3.8:** Let  $S$  be a perfect edge dominating set of a graph  $G$ ,  $S$  is a private edge dominating set of  $G$  if and only if  $E \setminus S$  is edge dominating set of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a perfect edge dominating set of a graph  $G$ . Assume that  $S$  is a private edge dominating set of  $G$ ,  $S$  is a minimal edge dominating set of  $G$ . Therefore  $E \setminus S$  is edge dominating set of  $G$ . Conversely suppose that  $E \setminus S$  is an edge dominating set of  $G$ , since  $S$  is a perfect edge dominating set of  $G$ , so every edge in  $E \setminus S$  is adjacent to unique element in  $S$ , and every edge in  $S$  is adjacent to at least one edge in  $E \setminus S$ . Hence every edge in  $E \setminus S$  is a private edge neighbor of a edge in  $S$ . So  $S$  is a private edge dominating set of  $G$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.9:** If we delete perfect, Theorem 3.8 does not need to be true.

**Theorem 3.10:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \Gamma'(G)$ , where  $\Gamma'(G)$  is the upper domination number.[2].

**Theorem 3.11:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) + \gamma'(G) \leq q$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a minimal private edge dominating set with maximum cardinality. Then  $E \setminus S$  is an edge dominating set. Hence  $|E \setminus S| \geq \gamma'$ , then  $q - |S| \geq \gamma'$   $\square$

**Theorem 3.12:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \frac{q}{2}$ , then  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G)$

**Proof.** Assume that  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \frac{q}{2}$  also  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \frac{q}{2}$ . But by the observation  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \Gamma'(G)$ ,  $\frac{q}{2} \leq \Gamma'(G)$ . This implies that  $\frac{q}{2} \leq \Gamma'(G) \leq \frac{q}{2}$ . Therefore  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \frac{q}{2} = \Gamma'(G)$   $\square$

**Remark 3.13:** The converse of the Theorem 3.12 needs not be true.

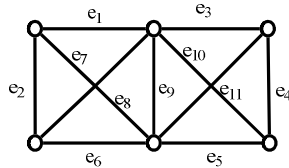


Fig. 5

In Fig. 5  $S = \{e_1, e_3, e_9\}$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G)$  which is not equal to  $\frac{q}{2}$ .

**Theorem 3.14:** For every connected graph  $G$ , if the edge perfect domination number is  $\frac{q}{2}$  then  $\gamma_p(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph, let  $S$  be a perfect edge dominating set, such that  $|S| = \frac{q}{2}$ . By the definition of perfect dominating set  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$  which implies that  $S$  is an private edge dominating set with  $|S| = \frac{q}{2}$ . Always  $\frac{q}{2} \leq |S| \leq \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \Gamma'(G) \leq \frac{q}{2}$ ,  $\gamma_p(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G)$ . □

**Remark 3.15:** The converse of the Theorem 3.14 is not true.

In a triangle graph  $\gamma_p(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = 1$ , but  $\gamma_p(G)$  is not equal to  $\frac{q}{2}$ .

**Theorem 3.16:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $S$  be a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set,  $\gamma'(G) + \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = q$  if and only if  $E \setminus S$  is a minimum edge dominating set.

**Proof.** The result is obviously true.

**Theorem 3.17:** For any connected graph  $G$ , let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set. If  $E \setminus S$  is a minimum edge dominating set, then  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$

**Proof.** Let  $|S| = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ , also  $q - \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \gamma'(G)$  then  $q = \gamma'(G) + \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ . We show that  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \frac{q}{2}$ . Suppose  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) < \frac{q}{2}$  which implies that  $\gamma'(G) > \frac{q}{2}$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$  □

**Remark 3.18:** The converse of the Theorem 3.17 is not true.

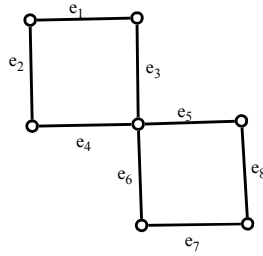


Fig. 6

In Fig. 6  $S = \{e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6\}$  satisfying  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$  but  $E \setminus S$  is not a minimum Edge dominating set.

**Theorem 3.19:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $S$  be a  $\gamma_p(G)$  set, then  $E \setminus S$  is a minimum edge dominating set if and only if  $\gamma_p(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be any connected graph,  $S$  be a  $\gamma_p(G)$  -set which implies that  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$ . Assume that  $E \setminus S$  is a minimum edge dominating set, since  $S$  be a  $\gamma_p(G)$  set which is dominating and  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$  which implies  $S$  is a minimum edge dominating set, also  $P_n(e', S) = 1$  for all  $e' \in S$ . Therefore every edge in  $E \setminus S$  is adjacent to exactly one edge in  $S$  and every edge in  $S$  is adjacent to at least one edge in  $E \setminus S$ . So that  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$ . Hence  $\gamma_p(G) = \frac{q}{2} = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ . Conversely assume that  $\gamma_p(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$  so that every edge in  $S$  is adjacent with exactly one edge in  $E \setminus S$ . This implies  $E \setminus S$  is a minimum edge dominating set.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.20:** For any  $C_{4n}$ ,  $\beta(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = IR'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$

**Theorem 3.21:** For any connected Tree,  $\Delta \leq 3$  and if,  $\beta(G) = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ , then  $\gamma_p(G) \leq \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  set. (Choose  $S$  in such a way that  $\langle S \rangle$  has minimum number of edges). Let  $F$  be the set which contains external private neighbor of  $S$ . Let  $X$  denote the edges which are neither in  $S$  nor in  $F$ , but in  $E \setminus S$ .

$$\text{So that } |E| = |S| + |F| + |X| \tag{1}$$



**Case (i)**  $|X| = \Phi$ .

Therefore  $|E| = |S| + |F|$  which implies every edge in  $S$  is adjacent to at least one external private neighbor,  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$

Suppose  $|N(e) \cap S| \neq 1$ , then  $e$  is not a private neighbor of any element in  $S$ . This implies  $e \in X$ ,  $|X| \neq \Phi$ ,  $|N(e) \cap S| = 1$ , for all  $e \in E \setminus S$ . So that  $S$  is also a perfect edge dominating set,  $\gamma_p(G) \leq |S| = \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ .

**Case (ii)**  $|X| \neq \Phi$

Let  $e' \in E \setminus S$  which implies  $e' \in E \setminus S$ . Therefore  $|N(e') \cap S| \neq 1$ , implies  $|N(e') \cap S| \leq 2$ , since  $e'$  is adjacent to at least two elements in  $S$ , also  $\Delta \leq 3$  implies  $|N(e') \cap S| = 2$ . Let  $e_1, e_2 \in S$  which are adjacent with  $e'$ . By the definition of  $S$ ,  $e_1$  has one external private neighbor and  $e_2$  have exactly one external private neighbor, so that  $e'$  is adjacent with four edges, two of them belongs to  $S$  and two of them belongs to  $E \setminus S$ . Also  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  have at least one external private neighbor. So that  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are not adjacent with any element in  $S$ , also  $\Delta \leq 3$ . Suppose if they are belongs to  $S$ , then  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  does not have any external private neighbor, also  $\beta(G) > \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$  which gives a contradiction. In  $S$ , we eliminate  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  and add  $e'$ , we get a perfect graph which is  $|S'| < |S|$ . Also all elements in  $S'$  with the condition that  $|N(e) \cap S'| = 1$  for all  $e \in E \setminus S'$ . Hence  $\gamma_p(G) \leq \Gamma'_{pvt}(G)$ . □

**Theorem 3.22:** In a  $(p, q)$  connected graph  $p \geq 3$ ,  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq p - 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $|S| = k$  be a minimal edge private dominating set with maximum cardinality. Suppose  $k > p - 2$  notice that no edge in  $S$  can have both of its end points adjacent to a line is  $S$ , for such edge cannot have proper neighbor. Hence the edges in  $S$  form a sub graph of  $G$ , which is a union of star graphs.

Suppose  $S$  contains  $k'$  edges which are independent in  $S$ . Since each edge which is not independent is  $S$  has at least one proper neighbor. The total number of points in a graph is at least  $2k' + (k - k') + 2$  if  $k' < k$ ,  $2k + 2$  if  $k' = k$ . Therefore

$$p > \begin{cases} 2k' + k + 2 & \text{if } k' < k \\ 3k + 2 & \text{if } k' = k \end{cases}$$

So that  $p \geq k + 2$  as  $p \geq 2$ . Thus we have a contradiction in both cases. □

**Theorem 3.23:** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $m$  vertices  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G \circ G') \leq mn - 2$ , where  $G' = C_n$  or  $P_n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  vertices and  $G'$  be also a graph with  $n$  vertices. Then  $G \circ G'$  has  $p = mn + n$  vertices and  $q \leq \frac{m(m-1)}{2} + mn$

Suppose  $S = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_k\}$  be a maximal edge private dominating set with maximum cardinality.

Suppose  $k > mn - 2$ , notice that no edge in  $S$  can have both of its end points adjacent to an edge in  $S$ , for such line cannot have a proper neighbor. Hence the line in  $S$  form a sub graph of  $G$  which is a union of star graphs. Thus the number of vertices in the graph  $G \circ G'$  is at least  $2k + 2$ , always  $k \geq m$ .

$p \geq k + k + 2$ , implies  $p \geq m + k + 2$ , implies  $p \geq mn - 2 + m + 2$ ,  $p \geq mn + m$ . which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.24:** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $m$  vertices, then  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G \circ K_2) = m$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  vertices, and  $G'$  be also a graph with  $n$  vertices. Then  $G \circ G'$  has  $p = 3m$  vertices and  $q \leq \frac{m(m-1)}{2} + 3m$ . Suppose  $S = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_k\}$  be a maximal edge private dominating set with maximum cardinality. Suppose  $k > m$ . The number of edges in a given graph is at least  $3k + 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} q &\geq 3k + 2 > 2k + 2, q > 2k + 2, q > 2(k + 1), q > 2m \\ \Rightarrow \frac{m(m-1)}{2} + 3m &> 2m \\ \Rightarrow \frac{m(m-1)}{2} &> -m \\ \Rightarrow m < -\frac{m(m-1)}{2} \\ \Rightarrow 1 < \frac{1-m}{2}, (m \geq 2), \text{ which is a contradiction.} \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

**Observation 3.25:** Let  $1, 2, 3$  and  $1, 2, 3, \dots, n$  be the vertices of  $P_3$  and  $P_n$  respectively. Choose  $n \geq 3$ , then the edges of  $P_3 \times P_n$  denoted by  $R_{i,j}$  and  $C_{l,m}$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$ ,  $l = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ ,  $m = 1, 2$ .

For  $P_3 \times P_n$  graph, consider 3 rows and  $n$  columns. Let us consider the column edges by  $C_{l,m}$  and the row edges by  $R_{i,j}$ .

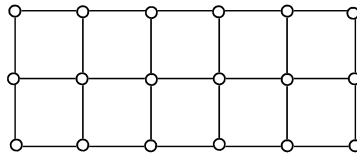


Fig. 7  $P_3 \times P_n$

**Theorem 3.26:** For any  $P_3 \times P_n$  graph,  $n \geq 3$ , then

$$\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) \leq \begin{cases} 5 \frac{n}{3} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \\ 5 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ 5 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 3 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Let us consider the set  $S = \{C_{3l-2,1}, C_{3l-2,2}, C_{3l,1}, C_{3l,2}, R_{2,3l-2} \mid l = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \frac{n}{3}$   
 ( $l$  should be an integer)}

**Case (i)**  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

We consider  $S_1 = S$ , and we notice that  $P_n(e, S) \neq \Phi$ . That is every edge in  $S$  have at least one external private neighbor. Which is also one maximal. Since if we add one edge from  $E \setminus S$ , then some of its elements in  $S_1$  do not have external private neighbor. So that is  $S_1$  maximal.

To show that  $S_1$  is maximal. Notice that every edge in  $S_1$  have almost 2 external private neighbor. And  $S_1 = 5 \frac{n}{3}$ . The given graph  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , here  $\frac{n}{3}$  edges has exactly two external private neighbor and the remaining  $4 \frac{n}{3}$  edges has exactly one external private neighbor. If we delete one edge from these  $\frac{n}{3}$  edges and add at least two edges from  $E \setminus S_1$ , then the resultant graph has cardinality  $S_1 + 1$  but at least four edges of this set does not have any external private neighbor. Therefore  $S_1$  is maximum. Hence

$$\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = 5 \frac{n}{3} \quad \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}.$$

**Case (ii)**  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

We consider  $S_2 = S \cup \{R_{2,n-1}\}$ . Clearly  $S_2$  is maximal, and notice that every edge in  $S_2$  has almost two external private neighbor. The given graph is  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$  edges have exactly two external private neighbor and  $4 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$  edges have exactly one external private neighbor. If we delete at least one edge from  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$  edges and add at least two edges from  $E \setminus S_2$  then the resultant graph contains at least four edges does not have any external private neighbor. Therefore  $S_2$  is maximum. Hence

$$\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = 5 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1 \quad \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}.$$

**Case (iii)**  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$

Choose  $S_3 = S \cup \{R_{2,n-1}, C_{n-1,1}, C_{n-1,2}\}$ . This is clearly maximal. Also notice that every edge in  $S_3$  has almost two external private neighbors. The given graph is  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$  edges have exactly two external private neighbors and  $4 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 2$  edges have exactly one external private neighbor. If we delete one edge from  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$  set of edges, and add at least two edges from  $E \setminus S_3$ , the resulting graph contains at least four edges that do not contain any external private neighbor. Therefore  $S_3$  is maximum. Hence

$$\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = 5 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 3 \quad \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \quad \square$$

**Theorem 3.29:** For any complete graph  $K_{2,n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$  then  $\Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = \frac{q}{2}$ .

**Proof.** The vertex set of  $V$  is partitioned into two sets  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ . Let  $V_1 = \{v_1, v_2\}$ ,  $V_2 = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ . Since  $G$  is complete bipartite graph  $v_1$  is adjacent to every vertex in  $V_2$  and  $v_2$  is adjacent to every vertex in  $V_2$ . The given graph contains  $2n$  edges, choose  $F = \{u_1 v_1, u_2 v_1, \dots, u_n v_1\}$ ,  $|F| = \frac{q}{2}$ . By one maximality every edge in  $F$  is adjacent to exactly one edge in  $E \setminus F$ . Therefore every edge in  $F$  has exactly one external private neighbor.

$$\text{Hence } \Gamma'_{pvt}(G) = \Gamma'(G) = \frac{q}{2}. \quad \square$$

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