

## A NOTE ON $\gamma$ -GRAPHS

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### Abstract

As introduced in the paper by Fricke et. al., given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , the  $\gamma$ -graph  $G(\gamma) = (V(\gamma), E(\gamma))$  is the graph whose vertex set corresponds 1-to-1 with the  $\gamma$ -sets, or minimum-cardinality dominating sets, of  $G$ . Two  $\gamma$ -sets, say  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , are adjacent in  $E(\gamma)$  if there exists a vertex  $v \in S_1$  and a vertex  $w \in S_2$  such that  $v$  is adjacent to  $w$  and  $S_1 = S_2 - \{w\} \cup \{v\}$ , or equivalently,  $S_2 = S_1 - \{v\} \cup \{w\}$ . In this paper we investigate two open questions regarding these  $\gamma$ -graphs. First, we consider whether every graph  $H$  is the  $\gamma$ -graph of some graph  $G$ , and we show that for every graph  $H$ , there exists a graph  $G$  such that  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ . Second, we investigate when  $G(\gamma)$  is disconnected. We prove that all graphs of order  $n \leq 5$  have connected  $\gamma$ -graphs, and we determine all graphs  $G$  on six vertices for which  $G(\gamma)$  is disconnected.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph with vertex set  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and order  $n = |V|$ . We assume the reader is familiar with some basic terms in graph theory, specifically regarding domination. We briefly describe a few terms here, but refer the reader to [2, 3]. A set  $S \subseteq V$  is a *dominating set* of  $G$  if every vertex in  $V - S$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $S$ , or equivalently if the closed neighborhood  $N[S]$  of  $S$  satisfies  $N[S] = V$ . The *domination number*  $\gamma(G)$  of  $G$  equals the minimum cardinality of a dominating set  $S$  in  $G$ ; we say that such a set  $S$  is a  $\gamma$ -set. We say that a vertex  $v \in S$  has a *private neighbor*

with respect to  $S$  if  $N[v] - N[S - \{v\}] \neq \emptyset$ , in which case every vertex in  $N[v] - N[S - \{v\}]$  is called a *private neighbor* of  $v$  with respect to  $S$ . A vertex  $w \in V - S$  is said to be an *external private neighbor*, or *epn*, of a vertex  $v \in S$  if  $N(w) \cap S = \{v\}$ . If vertex  $v \in S$  is not adjacent to any vertex in  $S$  it is called *its own private neighbor*, or *self-private neighbor*, *spn*.

As introduced in Fricke, et.al. [1], the  $\gamma$ -graph  $G(\gamma) = (V(\gamma), E(\gamma))$  of a graph  $G$  is the graph whose vertices  $V(\gamma)$  correspond 1-to-1 with the  $\gamma$ -sets of  $G$ , and two  $\gamma$ -sets, say  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , form an edge in  $E(\gamma)$  if there exists a vertex  $v \in S_1$  and a vertex  $w \in S_2$  such that (i)  $v$  is adjacent to  $w$  and (ii)  $S_1 = S_2 - \{w\} \cup \{v\}$  and  $S_2 = S_1 - \{v\} \cup \{w\}$ . We say that the  $\gamma$ -graph  $G(\gamma)$  of graph  $G$  is *isomorphic* to a graph  $H$ , that is,  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$  if and only if there exists a bijection  $f : V(G(\gamma)) \rightarrow V(H)$  such that two vertices  $u, v$  are adjacent in  $G(\gamma)$  if and only if  $f(u)$  and  $f(v)$  are adjacent in  $H$ .

We are interested in investigating the following open questions as described in [1].

1. Is it possible to construct a graph  $H$  that is not a  $\gamma$ -graph of any graph  $G$ ?
2. Under what conditions is  $G(\gamma)$  a disconnected graph?

Regarding the first question, we will show in Section 2 that for every graph  $H$ , there exists a graph  $G$  such that  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ . Regarding the second question, we will show in Section 3 that the  $\gamma$ -graphs of all graphs of order  $n \leq 5$  are connected. We further identify all graphs of order  $n = 6$  having disconnected  $\gamma$ -graphs.

## 2. $\gamma$ -Graph Existence

In the main result of this section, given any graph  $H$ , we show that there exists a graph  $G$  where  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ . We begin with a couple of lemmas useful in proving this result.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph and let  $S \subset V$  be any  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$ . Let  $v \in S$  be any vertex in  $S$  such that  $N[S - \{v\}] = V - \{x\}$ , that is  $S - \{v\}$  dominates every vertex in  $V$  except one vertex  $x$ . Then the subgraph  $G[N[x]]$  induced by the closed neighborhood  $N[x]$  of  $x$  is a subgraph of  $G(\gamma)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $S - \{v\}$  dominates every vertex except  $x$ , then  $S - \{v\} \cup \{u\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set for every vertex  $u \in N[x]$ . □

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph having a  $\gamma$ -set  $S \subset V$  with the property that for every vertex  $v \in S$ , there does not exist an adjacent vertex  $w \in V - S$  such that  $S - \{v\} \cup \{w\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set. Then  $S$  is an isolated vertex in  $G(\gamma)$ .*

An obvious generalization of Lemma 2.1 is the following.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph and let  $S \subset V$  be any  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$ . Let  $v \in S$  be any vertex in  $S$  such that  $N[S - \{v\}] = V - A$ , that is  $S - \{v\}$  dominates every vertex in  $V$  except vertices in  $A$ . Let  $CN[A] = \bigcap_{u \in A} N[u]$  be the common neighborhood of the vertices in  $A$ . Then the induced subgraph  $G[CN[A]]$  is a subgraph of  $G(\gamma)$ .*

Using the above results, we can prove the main theorem of this section.

**Theorem 2.4.** *For any graph  $H$ , there exists a graph  $G$  such that  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $H = (V, E)$  be a graph where  $V(H) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ . We show, by construction, that there exists graph  $G$  such that  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ . We construct the graph  $G$  using the existing graph  $H$ . To form  $G$ , add a path  $P_3$  of order 3 with vertices  $p_1, p_2, p_3$  and add  $n$  edges of the form  $(v_i, p_2)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Further, add two nonadjacent vertices  $x$  and  $y$  with edges  $(v_i, x)$  and  $(v_i, y)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Note that since no vertex is adjacent to every other vertex,  $\gamma(G) \geq 2$ .

It is clear that  $X_i = \{p_2, v_i\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , is a  $\gamma$ -set for  $G$  since  $p_2$  dominates each vertex in the added  $P_3$  and each vertex  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , in the original graph  $H$ . Further, each vertex  $v_i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , dominates both  $x$  and  $y$ . Since no dominating set of  $G$  can contain less than two vertices, each  $X_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , is a minimum-cardinality dominating set. To show there are no others, let  $S$  be a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$ . Set  $S$  must contain  $p_2$  otherwise  $S$  would have to contain both  $p_1, p_3$  and some vertex  $v_j \in V(H)$ , thus making  $|S| > 2$ . Further, if  $x \in S$  (or likewise  $y \in S$ ), then since  $x$  and  $p_2$  do not dominate  $y$  (or likewise  $x$ ), there must exist another vertex in the dominating set, contradicting the minimality of  $S$ . This implies that  $S = X_i$ , for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Hence, the sets  $X_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , are the only minimum dominating sets for  $G$ .

Each  $\gamma$ -set differs by only one vertex as  $p_2$  appears in every  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$ . Further, each vertex in  $V(H)$  is adjacent to vertices  $x$  and  $y$ . Hence, the common neighborhood of  $x$  and  $y$  is  $V(H)$ . The result then follows by Lemma 2.3.  $\square$

Figure 1 shows the construction of the graph  $G$  from a graph  $H$  so that  $G(\gamma) \simeq H$ .

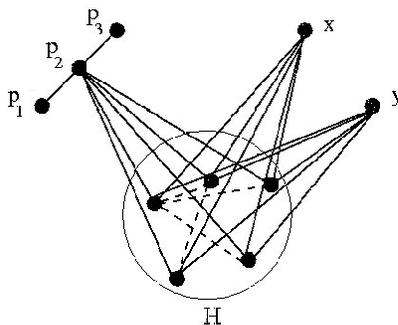


Figure 1: Construction of Graph  $G$  from Graph  $H$

Note that as long as  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ , we can reduce the size of the constructed graph, call it  $G'$ , by adding a path  $P_2$  of order 2 instead of order 3, where  $V(P_2) = \{p_1, p_2\}$  and still add edges  $(v_i, p_2)$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . In this case we still add vertices  $x$  and  $y$  with corresponding edges  $(x, v_i)$  and  $(y, v_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . This leads to the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.5.** *If  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ , then the aforementioned constructed graph  $G'$  is such that  $G'(\gamma) \simeq H$ .*

Two immediate corollaries of Theorem 2.4 are as follows.

**Corollary 2.6.** *Every chordal graph is the  $\gamma$ -graph of a chordal graph.*

*Proof.* If a graph  $H$  is chordal, i.e. contains no chordless cycles, then so is the graph  $G$  constructed from  $H$  in Theorem 2.4.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.7.** *Every graph  $H$  of order  $n$  is the  $\gamma$ -graph of a graph  $G$  of order  $n + 5$  (or  $n + 4$  if  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ ) that contains  $H$  as a proper, induced subgraph.*

One interesting question that follows from Corollary 2.7 is: when is a graph isomorphic to its  $\gamma$ -graph? For complete graphs, we can state the following proposition.

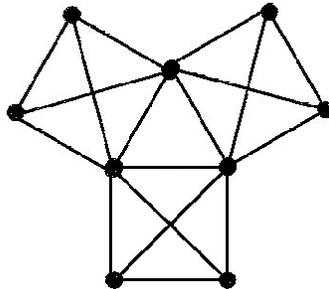
**Proposition 2.8.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph of order  $n$ . Then  $G(\gamma)$  is isomorphic to the complete graph  $K_r$  if and only if  $G$  has  $r$  vertices of degree  $n - 1$ .*

Thus, complete graphs are isomorphic to their  $\gamma$ -graphs. As noted in [1],  $C_{3k+2}$ ,  $k \geq 1$ , the cycle on  $3k+2$  vertices, is also isomorphic to  $C_{3k+2}(\gamma)$ . Further, we have found another class of graphs that are isomorphic to their  $\gamma$ -graphs. These graphs are combinations of cycles and complete graphs. Consider  $C_k$ , the cycle with  $k$  vertices  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}$ . If  $k$  is odd, we replace each edge  $(x_i, x_{(i+1) \bmod (k)}) \in E(C_k)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , with a complete graph of size  $K_n$ . That is, we add vertices  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-2}$  and all possible edges corresponding to these vertices and  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$ . This is repeated for each of the original edges in  $C_k$ . If  $k$  is even, we replace one vertex  $x_1$  with a complete graph  $K_n$  and add edges from  $x_k$  and  $x_2$  to each vertex in the added  $K_n$ . Then, for each of the edges  $(x_i, x_{(i+1) \bmod (k)})$ ,  $2 \leq i \leq k - 1$ , we make the same replacement as we did when  $k$  was odd. We call the graph formed in this manner  $K_n \cdot C_k$ . Figure 2 shows  $K_4 \cdot C_3$ .

It is easy to show the following.

**Proposition 2.9.**  $(K_n \cdot C_k)(\gamma) \simeq K_n \cdot C_k$ .

*Proof.* We only present the case where  $k$  is odd. Since the graph  $(K_n \cdot C_k)$  consists of  $k$   $K_n$ -subgraphs arranged along an odd cycle  $C_k$ , we have to choose vertices that will dominate the vertices in each  $K_n$  subgraph. This is minimally accomplished by choosing vertices that are on the ‘‘inner’’ cycle  $C_k$ . Each of these vertices dominate two adjacent  $K_n$ -subgraphs. So choosing every other of these vertices dominates all but one of the  $K_n$ -subgraphs. Since  $k$  is odd, this leaves one  $K_n$ -subgraph undominated. Any of the vertices

Figure 2: The Graph of  $K_4 \cdot C_3$ 

of the undominated  $K_n$  can be used to complete the dominating set and thus create a  $K_n$ -subgraph in  $(K_n \cdot C_k)(\gamma)$ . Since a dominating set can be built like this starting from any vertex on the cycle  $C_k$ , it is clear that  $(K_n \cdot C_k)(\gamma) \simeq (K_n \cdot C_k)$ .  $\square$

The question of finding graphs that are isomorphic to their  $\gamma$ -graphs seems to be difficult to answer. We leave this as an open problem.

### 3. $\gamma$ -Graph Connectivity

A second question from [1] was that of finding conditions under which the  $\gamma$ -graph of a graph is disconnected. The following proposition shows that if  $G$  is disconnected, then its  $\gamma$ -graph  $G(\gamma)$  is connected.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a graph consisting of two connected components  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . Then  $G(\gamma) \simeq (G_1(\gamma) \square G_2(\gamma))$  is connected, where  $\square$  denotes the Cartesian product of two graphs.*

**Corollary 3.2.** *If a graph  $G$  is disconnected, then  $G(\gamma)$  is connected.*

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph having an isolated vertex  $x$ . Then  $G(\gamma) \simeq (G - \{x\})(\gamma)$ .*

Next, we show that all graphs of order  $n \leq 5$  have connected  $\gamma$ -graphs, and we exhibit all graphs of order  $n = 6$  which have disconnected  $\gamma$ -graphs. First we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. If  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are  $\gamma$ -sets of  $G$  such that  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 = \emptyset$ , then the induced subgraph  $G[\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2]$  contains a matching between the vertices in  $\gamma_1$  and the vertices in  $\gamma_2$  in each of the following cases.*

1.  $\gamma(G) = 2$ , or
2.  $\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = V(G)$ .

*Proof.* In the first case where  $\gamma(G) = 2$ , since  $\gamma_1$  is a dominating set, each vertex in  $\gamma_2$  is adjacent to some vertex in  $\gamma_1$ . Since  $\gamma_2$  is a dominating set, each vertex in  $\gamma_1$  is adjacent to some vertex in  $\gamma_2$ . Since  $|\gamma_1| = |\gamma_2| = 2$  and  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 = \emptyset$ , the result follows.

In the second case where  $\gamma_1 \cup \gamma_2 = V(G)$ , suppose there is a set  $A \subseteq \gamma_1$  such that  $|N(A) \cap \gamma_2| < |A|$ , where  $N(A)$  refers to the open neighborhood of  $A$ . Now consider the set  $B = (N(A) \cap \gamma_2) \cup (\gamma_1 - A)$ . Since  $\gamma_1$  is a dominating set,  $\gamma_1 - A$  dominates  $\gamma_2 - (N(A) \cap \gamma_2)$  and  $(N(A) \cap \gamma_2)$  dominates  $A$ . Hence  $B$  is a dominating set of smaller cardinality than  $\gamma_1$ , a contradiction. Thus each subset  $A \subseteq \gamma_1$  has  $|N(A) \cap \gamma_2| \geq |A|$ , and the result follows from Hall's Marriage Theorem [4].  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** *If  $G = (V, E)$  is a graph of order  $n \leq 5$ , then  $G(\gamma)$  is connected.*

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \leq 5$ . We must show that  $G(\gamma)$  is connected. From Corollary 3.2 we know that if  $G$  is not connected then  $G(\gamma)$  is connected. Let us therefore assume that  $G$  is connected. If  $\gamma(G) = 1$ , then  $G(\gamma)$  is a complete graph, and therefore is connected.

So, we can assume that  $\gamma(G) \geq 2$ . But since we can assume that  $G$  is connected, we know that  $\gamma(G) \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ . Therefore, we can assume that  $\gamma(G) = 2$ . We can also assume that  $4 \leq n \leq 5$ , since there are only four graphs of order  $n = 3$  and one can easily see that each of these four graphs has a  $\gamma$ -graph that is a complete graph, and is therefore connected.

Suppose next that there exist distinct  $\gamma$ -sets  $\gamma_1 = \{x_1, y_1\}$  and  $\gamma_2 = \{x_2, y_2\}$  such that  $\gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$  and there is no path in  $G(\gamma)$  between the vertices corresponding to  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , say  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , respectively. Since  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are distinct, without loss of generality suppose  $x_1 \neq x_2$ ,  $x_1 \neq y_2$ , and  $x_2 \neq y_1$ . Thus, either  $y_1 = y_2$  or  $y_1 \neq y_2$ .

If  $y_1 = y_2 = y$ , then  $(x_1, x_2) \notin E(G)$  for otherwise there would be a direct  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . This implies that  $(y, x_1)$  and  $(y, x_2)$  must exist in  $E(G)$ . Hence, there exists a vertex, call it  $z \in V(G) - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$  such that  $(y, z) \notin E(G)$  but  $(x_1, z), (x_2, z) \in E(G)$  since  $x_1 \in \gamma_1$  and  $x_2 \in \gamma_2$  and  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are not their own private neighbors relative to  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . If  $n = 4$ , then  $\gamma = \{y, z\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set, and thus  $\{v_1, v, v_2\}$ , corresponding to  $\gamma$ -sets  $\gamma_1, \gamma, \gamma_2$  respectively, is a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . Hence  $n = 5$ . If  $n = 5$ , though, then there exists a vertex  $w \neq z \in V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ . However, if  $(y, w) \in E(G)$ , then  $\gamma = \{y, z\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$  and as before supplies a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . Otherwise,  $(x_1, w), (x_2, w) \in E(G)$ . However, then  $\{x_1, x_2\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$  and supplies a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . As this exhausts every option, if  $y_1 = y_2$ , then  $G(\gamma)$  is connected.

Now consider the case where  $y_1 \neq y_2$ . This implies that  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 = \emptyset$ . By Lemma 3.4, there exists a matching between the vertices of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . Without loss of generality, let us assume  $(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2) \in E(G)$ . If  $n = 4$ , then since  $\gamma = \{x_1, y_2\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set, there exists a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . If  $n = 5$ , there exists a vertex  $z \in V(G) - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$  which is adjacent to at least one vertex in each of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $(x_1, z) \in E(G)$ . Then, there is a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$  corresponding to the  $\gamma$ -sets  $\gamma_1, \gamma = \{x_1, y_2\}$ , and  $\gamma_2$ . Thus, if  $y_1 \neq y_2$ , we have found that  $G(\gamma)$  is connected.  $\square$

For the case of a graph with six vertices we can characterize the graphs whose  $\gamma$ -graphs are disconnected. To this end, suppose  $G = (V, E)$  is a graph with  $|V| = 6$  such that  $G(\gamma)$  is disconnected. From Corollary 3.2, we can assume that  $G$  is connected. Since  $G(\gamma)$  is disconnected there exists vertices  $v_1, v_2 \in V(G(\gamma))$  such that there does not exist a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$  path in  $G(\gamma)$ . Suppose that  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are the  $\gamma$ -sets of  $G$  corresponding to vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . As in Theorem 3.5, note that if  $\gamma(G) = 1$ , there cannot be two  $\gamma$ -sets that are disjoint since each vertex in a  $\gamma$ -set must be adjacent to all other vertices. Hence  $\gamma(G) \geq 2$ . If  $\gamma(G) = 3 = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ , Lemma 3.4 guarantees that there is a matching of the elements of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  thus supplying a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . Hence  $\gamma(G) = 2$ . We now break our discussion into two cases depending on whether (A)  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 = \emptyset$  or (B)  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 \neq \emptyset$ .

Let us first consider Case (A). Let  $\gamma_1 = \{x_1, y_1\}$  and  $\gamma_2 = \{x_2, y_2\}$ . Since  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 = \emptyset$ , each of  $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2$  is distinct. Further, by Lemma 3.4, there exists a matching between the vertices in  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , say this matching is  $(x_1, x_2)$  and  $(y_1, y_2)$ . Suppose there exists a vertex of  $\gamma_1$  (or  $\gamma_2$ ), say  $x_1$ , that is adjacent to each vertex of  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2 = \{z_1, z_2\}$ . Then there is a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ , namely  $\{v_1, v, v_2\}$  corresponding to  $\gamma$ -sets  $\gamma_1, \gamma = \{x_1, y_2\}$ , and  $\gamma_2$  respectively. So no vertex in  $\gamma_1$  or  $\gamma_2$  can be adjacent to each vertex of  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ . This implies that  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  must be adjacent to exactly one vertex in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ , say  $(x_1, z_1), (y_1, z_2) \in E(G)$ . Note that since  $(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2) \in E(G)$ , if  $(x_2, z_1)$  and  $(y_2, z_2)$  are edges in  $E(G)$ , there exists a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$  path in  $G(\gamma)$  since both  $\{x_2, y_1\}$  and  $\{x_1, y_2\}$  are  $\gamma$ -sets. Hence  $(x_2, z_1), (y_2, z_2) \notin E(G)$ , but rather  $(x_2, z_2), (y_2, z_1) \in E(G)$  since  $\gamma_2$  is a dominating set and no vertex in  $\gamma_2$  can be adjacent to both  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . Also, note that the edges  $(x_1, y_2)$  and  $(y_1, x_2)$  cannot be present if the  $\gamma$ -graph is to be disconnected. To see this, suppose  $G$  contains the edge  $(x_1, y_2)$ . Then there is a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$  through the vertices corresponding to the sequence of  $\gamma$ -sets  $\{x_1, y_1\}, \{x_1, z_2\}, \{z_2, y_2\}, \{x_2, y_2\}$ . The case where  $(y_1, x_2) \in E(G)$  is the same by symmetry. This leaves the only possible graph satisfying Case (A) to be  $C_6$ , the cycle of order 6, as shown in Case (A) of Figure 3. The edges  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)$ , and  $(z_1, z_2)$  may or may not be present in a Case (A) graph without adding a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ .

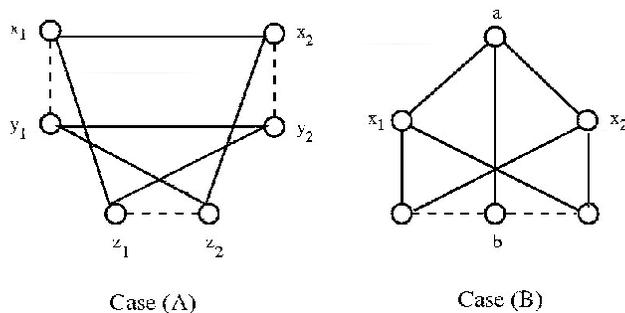


Figure 3: Graphs of Order 6 with Disconnected  $\gamma$ -Graphs

Now, let us consider Case (B). Since  $\gamma(G) = 2$ ,  $|\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2| = 1$ , and call this common

vertex  $a$ . There exists two nonadjacent vertices  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  so that  $\{a, x_1\} = \gamma_1$  and  $\{a, x_2\} = \gamma_2$ . Note that  $(x_1, x_2) \notin E(G)$  for otherwise there would be a path between  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  corresponding to  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  in  $G(\gamma)$ . This implies that  $(a, x_1), (a, x_2) \in E(G)$ . Vertex  $a$  must have a private neighbor in both  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . Thus it must be adjacent to at least one vertex, call it  $b$ , in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ , otherwise  $\{x_1, x_2\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set and thus creates a path in  $G(\gamma)$  between  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . However  $a$  cannot be adjacent to more than one vertex in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ . To see this, if  $a$  is adjacent to all three vertices in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$  then  $\{a\}$  is a dominating set, contradicting  $\gamma(G) = 2$ . Further, if  $a$  is adjacent to two of the three vertices in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$  and not adjacent to, say, vertex  $z \in V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ , then  $(x_1, z), (x_2, z) \in E(G)$ . This implies that  $\{a, z\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set and thus supplies a  $v_1$ -to- $v_2$ -path in  $G(\gamma)$ . Now, since  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are dominating sets, we must, then, have edges connecting  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to the two remaining vertices in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ . Hence, the created graph in Case B (with possible added edges from  $b$  to each of the other vertices in  $V - \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ , as shown in Case (B) of Figure 3) is the only graph on six vertices with two  $\gamma$  sets,  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  with  $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2 \neq \emptyset$  with a disconnected  $\gamma$ -graph. We have thus shown Theorem 3.6.

**Theorem 3.6.** *The only graphs of order  $n = 6$  with disconnected  $\gamma$ -graphs are the graphs in Case (A) and the graphs in Case (B).*

Note that the construction proofs for Theorem 2.4 and Proposition 2.5 can be used to construct disconnected  $\gamma$ -graphs. In fact, the Case (B) graph is a construction of the form indicated in Proposition 2.5 where we have taken two nonadjacent vertices  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  and added a path of length 2 with vertices  $a$  and  $b$  in which vertex  $a$  is adjacent to  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  as well as two nonadjacent vertices  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  which are adjacent to each of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ . Figure 4 represents the Case (B) graph in a way to see this construction more clearly.

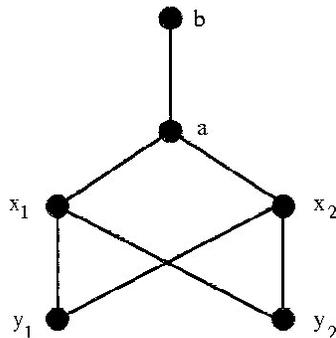


Figure 4: Case (B)

#### 4. Open Questions

Both in the proof here that every graph is the  $\gamma$ -graph of some graph and in the proof in [1] that every tree is the  $\gamma$ -graph of some graph, there are constructions of graphs where

there are graphs  $H$  whose  $\gamma$ -graphs are isomorphic to an induced subgraph of  $H$ . We might ask for which graphs  $H$  are the  $\gamma$ -graphs of a graph  $G$  that is smaller than  $H$ ? We have several examples of this. For example, the  $\gamma$ -graph of the four-cycle  $C_4$  is of order six. Further all  $n$ -cubes, having order  $2^n$  are the  $\gamma$ -graphs of coronas of order  $2n$ . Also, the question of which graphs are isomorphic to their  $\gamma$ -graphs seems particularly intriguing.

**Added In Proof.** The authors have recently become aware of the existence of the 2008 paper “ $\gamma$ -graph of a graph” by K. Subramanian and N. Sridharan appearing in *Bull. Kerala Math. Assoc.* **5**(1), pp. 17-34. Two other papers on this topic also exist: N. Sridharan and K. Subramanian, Trees and unicyclic graphs are  $\gamma$ -graphs, *J. Combin. Math. Combin. Comput.*, **69** (2009), 231-236, and S. A. Lakshmanan and A. Vijayakumar, The Gamma Graph of a Graph, *AKCE Int. J. Graphs Comb.*, **7**(1), 2010, pp. 53-59. It is important to note that in these papers the definition of  $\gamma$ -graphs is different from ours, and thus these are two different classes of graphs.

## References

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