

# Closed formulas for the total Roman domination number of lexicographic product graphs

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be a graph with no isolated vertex and  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}$  a function. Let  $V_i = \{x \in V(G) : f(x) = i\}$  for every  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . We say that  $f$  is a total Roman dominating function on  $G$  if every vertex in  $V_0$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $V_2$  and the subgraph induced by  $V_1 \cup V_2$  has no isolated vertex. The weight of  $f$  is  $\omega(f) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} f(v)$ . The minimum weight among all total Roman dominating functions on  $G$  is the total Roman domination number of  $G$ , denoted by  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ . It is known that the general problem of computing  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$  is NP-hard. In this paper, we show that if  $G$  is a graph with no isolated vertex and  $H$  is a nontrivial graph, then the total Roman domination number of the lexicographic product graph  $G \circ H$  is given by

$$\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \begin{cases} 2\gamma_t(G) & \text{if } \gamma(H) \geq 2, \\ \xi(G) & \text{if } \gamma(H) = 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\gamma(H)$  is the domination number of  $H$ ,  $\gamma_t(G)$  is the total domination number of  $G$  and  $\xi(G)$  is a domination parameter defined on  $G$ .

*Keywords:* Total Roman domination, total domination, lexicographic product graph.

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $G$  be a graph with no isolated vertex and  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}$  a function. Let  $V_i = \{x \in V(G) : f(x) = i\}$  for every  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . We will identify  $f$  with the partition of  $V(G)$  induced by  $f$  and write  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$ . The weight of  $f$  is defined to be

$$\omega(f) = f(V(G)) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} f(v) = |V_1| + 2|V_2|.$$

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A function  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  is said to be *total Roman dominating function* on  $G$  if every vertex in  $V_0$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $V_2$  and the subgraph induced by  $V_1 \cup V_2$  has no isolated vertex [15]. The minimum weight among all total Roman dominating functions on  $G$  is the *total Roman domination number* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ . In this article, we continue the study initiated in [5] on the total Roman domination number of lexicographic product graphs. In particular, we give closed formulas for the total Roman domination number of lexicographic product graphs.

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs. The *lexicographic product* of  $G$  and  $H$  is the graph  $G \circ H$  whose vertex set is  $V(G \circ H) = V(G) \times V(H)$  and  $(u, v)(x, y) \in E(G \circ H)$  if and only if  $ux \in E(G)$  or  $u = x$  and  $vy \in E(H)$ . Notice that for any  $u \in V(G)$  the subgraph of  $G \circ H$  induced by  $\{u\} \times V(H)$  is isomorphic to  $H$ . For simplicity, we will denote this subgraph by  $H_u$ .

For a basic introduction to the lexicographic product of two graphs we suggest the books [7, 12]. One of the main problems in the study of  $G \circ H$  consists of finding exact values or tight bounds for specific parameters of these graphs and express them in terms of known invariants of  $G$  and  $H$ . In particular, we cite the following works on domination theory of lexicographic product graphs: (total) domination [16, 17, 18, 21], Roman domination [18], weak Roman domination [20], rainbow domination [19], super domination [6], doubly connected domination [2], secure domination [13], double domination [4] and total Roman domination [5].

We assume that the reader is familiar with the basic concepts and terminology of domination in graph. If this is not the case, we suggest the textbooks [8, 9, 11]. In particular, we use the standard notation  $\gamma(G)$  and  $\gamma_t(G)$  for the domination number and the total domination number of a graph  $G$ , respectively. Throughout the paper,  $N(v)$  will denote the set of neighbours or *open neighbourhood* of  $v$  in  $G$ . The *closed neighbourhood* of  $v$ , denoted by  $N[v]$ , equals  $N(v) \cup \{v\}$ . A vertex  $v \in V(G)$  such that  $N[v] = V(G)$  is said to be a *universal vertex*. For the remainder of the paper, definitions will be introduced whenever a concept is needed.

## 2 The case where $\gamma(H) \geq 2$

The next theorem merges two results obtained in [18] and [21].

**Theorem 2.1** ([18] and [21]). *For any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex and any nontrivial graph  $H$ ,*

$$\gamma(G \circ H) = \begin{cases} \gamma(G), & \text{if } \gamma(H) = 1, \\ \gamma_t(G), & \text{if } \gamma(H) \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Below we present two theorems that complete the tools we need to deduce our first result.

**Theorem 2.2.** [1] *For any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex,*

$$2\gamma(G) \leq \gamma_{tR}(G) \leq \min\{2\gamma_t(G), 3\gamma(G)\}.$$

**Theorem 2.3.** [3] *For any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex and any nontrivial graph  $H$ ,*

$$\gamma_t(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G).$$

From the results above we deduce the following main theorem.

**Theorem 2.4.** For any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex and any graph  $H$  with  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ ,

$$\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 2\gamma_t(G).$$

*Proof.* The result immediately follows by applying Theorems 2.1, 2.3 and 2.2, in this order, i.e.,  $2\gamma_t(G) = 2\gamma(G \circ H) \leq \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 2\gamma_t(G \circ H) = 2\gamma_t(G)$ .  $\square$

Notice that, since the general optimization problem of finding the total domination number of a graph is NP-hard [14], by Theorem 2.4 we can conclude that the problem of finding the total Roman domination number is NP-hard. Even so, we would like to point out that there are several families of graphs for which the total domination number can be found in polynomial time [10].

### 3 The case where $\gamma(H) = 1$

The following two lemmas are the main tools in this section.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph with no isolated vertex. For any nontrivial graph  $H$  with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , there exists a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function  $f$  satisfying the following two conditions.

- (i)  $f(V(H_u)) \leq 2$  for every  $u \in V(G)$ .
- (ii) If  $f(V(H_u)) = 2$ , then  $f(u, v) = 2$  for some universal vertex  $v$  of  $H$ .

*Proof.* Given a TRDF  $f$  on  $G \circ H$ , we define the set  $R_f = \{x \in V(G) : f(V(H_x)) \geq 3\}$ . Let  $f$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function such that  $|R_f|$  is minimum among all  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -functions. Let  $v \in V(H)$  be a universal vertex and suppose that there exists  $u \in R_f$ . We differentiate the following two cases.

Case 1. There exists  $u' \in N(u)$  such that  $f(V(H_{u'})) \geq 1$ . Let  $f'$  be the function defined by  $f'(V(H_u)) = f'(u, v) = 2$  and  $f'(x, y) = f(x, y)$  for every  $x \in V(G) \setminus \{u\}$ . It is readily seen that  $f'$  is a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function with  $|R_{f'}| < |R_f|$ , which is a contradiction.

Case 2.  $f(N(u) \times V(H)) = 0$ . In this case, we choose a vertex  $u' \in N(u)$  and define a function  $f'$  as  $f'(V(H_{u'})) = f'(u', v) = 1$ ,  $f'(V(H_u)) = f'(u, v) = 2$  and  $f'(x, y) = f(x, y)$  for every  $x \in V(G) \setminus \{u, u'\}$ . As in Case 1,  $f'$  is a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function with  $|R_{f'}| < |R_f|$ , which is a contradiction.

According to the two cases above, (i) follows. Now, for any  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  satisfying (i), we define  $R'_f = \{x \in V(G) : f(V(H_x)) = 2 \text{ and } V(H_x) \cap V_2 = \emptyset\}$ . Let  $g(V'_0, V'_1, V'_2)$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function such that  $|R'_g|$  is minimum among all  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -functions satisfying (i). Suppose that there exists  $u \in R'_g$ . If there exists  $u' \in N(u)$  such that,  $g(V(H_{u'})) = 2$ , then the function  $g'$  defined by  $g'(V(H_u)) = g'(u, v) = 1$  and  $g'(x, y) = g(x, y)$  for every  $x \in V(G) \setminus \{u\}$ , is a TRDF on  $G \circ H$  of weight  $\omega(g') < \omega(g) = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence,  $g(N(u) \times V(H)) \leq 1$  and we can differentiate the following two cases.

Case 1'. There exists  $u' \in N(u)$  such that  $g(V(H_{u'})) = 1$ . In this case, we define a function  $g'$  by  $g'(V(H_u)) = g'(u, v) = 2$  and  $g'(x, y) = g(x, y)$  for every  $x \in V(G) \setminus \{u\}$ . Notice that  $g'$  is a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function satisfying (i) and  $|R'_{g'}| < |R'_g|$ , which is a contradiction.

Case 2'.  $g(N(u) \times V(H)) = 0$ . We fix  $u' \in N(u)$ . Notice that there exists  $u'' \in N(u') \setminus \{u\}$ , with  $V(H_{u''}) \cap V'_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Hence, we can define a function  $g'$  as  $g'(V(H_{u'})) =$

$g'(u', v) = g'(V(H_u)) = g'(u, v) = 1$  and  $g'(x, y) = g(x, y)$  for every  $x \in V(G) \setminus \{u, u'\}$ . As in Case 1',  $g'$  is a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function satisfying (i) and  $|R'_{g'}| < |R'_g|$ , which is a contradiction.

According to the two cases above,  $R'_g = \emptyset$ , and so there exists a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function  $h$  defined as  $h(V(H_u)) = h(u, v) = 2$  whenever  $g(V(H_u)) = 2$  and  $h(V(H_u)) = g(V(H_u))$  otherwise. Therefore,  $h$  satisfies (i) and (ii).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with no isolated vertex and  $H$  a nontrivial graph with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ . Let  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function,  $A = \{x \in V(G) : V(H_x) \cap V_1 \neq \emptyset\}$  and  $B = \{x \in V(G) : V(H_x) \cap V_2 \neq \emptyset\}$ . If  $f$  satisfies Lemma 3.1, then  $B$  is a dominating set and  $A \cup B$  is a total dominating set of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function which satisfies Lemma 3.1. Let  $C = V(G) \setminus (A \cup B)$ . Obviously, if  $x \in C$ , then  $V(H_x) \subseteq V_0$ , which implies that  $x$  is adjacent to some vertex in  $B$  and, since  $H$  is a nontrivial graph and  $f$  satisfies Lemma 3.1, if  $x \in A$ , then there exists  $y \in V(H)$  such that  $(x, y) \in V_0$ , and so  $x$  is adjacent to some vertex in  $B$ . Hence,  $B$  is a dominating set of  $G$ . Now, since the subgraph of  $G \circ H$  induced by  $V_1 \cup V_2$  does not have isolated vertices, the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $A \cup B$  does not have isolated vertices, which implies that  $A \cup B$  is total dominating set of  $G$ .  $\square$

For any graph  $G$ , let  $\mathcal{D}(G)$  be the set of dominating sets of  $G$ , and  $\mathcal{D}_t(G)$  the set of total dominating sets of  $G$ . We now proceed to introduce our main tool, which is the following domination parameter.

$$\xi(G) = \min\{|A| + 2|B| : B \in \mathcal{D}(G) \text{ and } A \cup B \in \mathcal{D}_t(G)\}.$$

We say that an ordered pair  $(A, B)$  of subsets of  $V(G)$  is a  $\xi(G)$ -pair if  $B \in \mathcal{D}(G)$ ,  $A \cup B \in \mathcal{D}_t(G)$  and  $\xi(G) = |A| + 2|B|$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** *For any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex and any nontrivial graph  $H$  with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ ,*

$$\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G).$$

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be a universal vertex of  $H$ . From any  $\xi(G)$ -pair  $(A, B)$  we define the function  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  as  $V_2 = B \times \{v\}$ ,  $V_1 = A \times \{v\}$  and  $V_0 = V(G \circ H) \setminus (V_1 \cup V_2)$ . Since  $V_2$  is a dominating set of  $G \circ H$  and  $V_1 \cup V_2$  is a total dominating set of  $G \circ H$ , we can conclude that  $f$  is a TRDF on  $G \circ H$ . Therefore,  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq \omega(f) = |V_1| + 2|V_2| = |A| + 2|B| = \xi(G)$ .

Now, let  $f'(V'_0, V'_1, V'_2)$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function which satisfies Lemma 3.1. Let  $A = \{x \in V(G) : f'(V(H_x)) = 1\}$  and  $B = \{x \in V(G) : f'(V(H_x)) = 2\}$ . By lemma 3.2,  $B$  is a dominating set of  $G$  and  $A \cup B$  is a total dominating set, which implies that  $\xi(G) \leq |A| + 2|B| = |V'_1| + 2|V'_2| = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ . Therefore, the result follows.  $\square$

Let  $G$  be the graph shown in Figure 1 and  $H$  a nontrivial graph with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ . Notice that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) = \gamma_{tR}(G) = 8$ , where  $f_1(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  and  $f_2(W_0, W_1, W_2)$  are  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ -functions for  $V_1 = \{b, e\}$ ,  $V_2 = \{a, d, f\}$ ,  $W_1 = \emptyset$ ,  $W_2 = \{a, b, e, f\}$ . Furthermore, both  $(V_1, V_2)$  and  $(W_1, W_2)$  are  $\xi(G)$ -pairs, where  $V_2$  is a  $\gamma(G)$ -set and  $|V_1| + |V_2| > \gamma_t(G)$ , while  $W_2$  is a  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set which does not contain any  $\gamma(G)$ -set.

The following bounds were given in [5]. In fact the lower bound was stated for any connected non-trivial graph  $G$ , although it also holds for any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex.

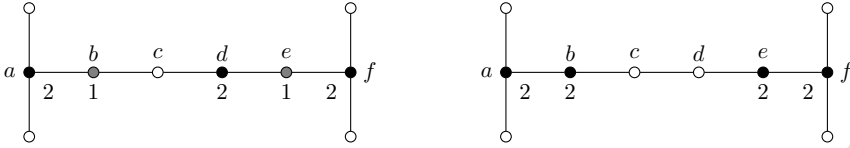


Figure 1: The labels correspond to two different  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ -functions  $f_1(V_0, V_1, V_2)$ , on the left, and  $f_2(W_0, W_1, W_2)$ , on the right. In this case,  $\gamma_{tR}(G) = 2\gamma_t(G) = 8$ ,  $V_2 = \{a, d, f\}$  is a  $\gamma(G)$ -set and  $W_2 = \{a, b, e, f\}$  is the only  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set.

**Theorem 3.4.** [5] For any graph  $H$  and any graph  $G$  with no isolated vertex,

$$\gamma_{tR}(G) \leq \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 2\gamma_t(G).$$

Furthermore, if  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then

$$\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 3\gamma(G).$$

In order to improve some of these bounds, we need to introduce some additional terminology. Given a set  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , we define

$$\psi(S) = \min\{|S'| : S' \subseteq V(G) \setminus S \text{ and } S \subseteq N(S' \cup S)\}.$$

We also define the following parameter associated to  $G$ .

$$\mu(G) = \min\{\psi(S) : S \text{ is a } \gamma(G)\text{-set}\}.$$

It is readily seen that  $0 \leq \mu(G) \leq \gamma(G)$ . Furthermore,  $\mu(G) = 0$  if and only if  $\gamma_t(G) = \gamma(G)$ , while  $\mu(G) = \gamma(G)$  if and only if for every  $\gamma(G)$ -set  $S$  and every pair of different vertices  $x, y \in S$  we have that  $N[x] \cap N[y] = \emptyset$ , i.e., if and only if every  $\gamma(G)$ -set is a 2-packing of  $G$ .

With the notation above in mind, we state the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs with no isolated vertex. If  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then

$$\max\{\gamma_{tR}(G), \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)\} \leq \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq \min\{2\gamma(G) + \mu(G), 2\gamma_t(G)\}.$$

*Proof.* Our main tool is Theorem 3.3. For any  $\xi(G)$ -pair  $(A, B)$  we have that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) = 2|B| + |A| \geq |(A \cup B)| + |B| \geq \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ .

Now, let  $S$  be a  $\gamma(G)$ -set with  $\mu(G) = \psi(S)$  and  $S' \subseteq V(G) \setminus S$  a set of minimum cardinality among the subsets of  $V(G) \setminus S$  satisfying that  $S \subseteq N(S' \cup S)$ . Since  $S \cup S'$  is a total dominating set,  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) \leq |S \cup S'| + |S| = 2|S| + |S'| = 2\gamma(G) + \mu(G)$ .

Finally, by Theorem 3.4,  $\gamma_{tR}(G) \leq \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 2\gamma_t(G)$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

Since  $\mu(G) \leq \gamma(G)$ , we can conclude that the bound  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 2\gamma(G) + \mu(G)$  is never worse than the known bound  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \leq 3\gamma(G)$ . In order to see that the upper bounds given by Theorem 3.5 are tight, we take the graph  $G$  shown in Figure 1 and any nontrivial graph  $H$  with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ . In this case,  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 2\gamma_t(G) = 2\gamma(G) + \mu(G) = 8$ .

We would point out the following result which is a direct consequence of Theorems 2.2 and 3.5.

**Theorem 3.6.** *If  $G$  is a graph with  $\gamma_t(G) = \gamma(G)$  and  $H$  is a nontrivial graph with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then*

$$\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_{tR}(G) = 2\gamma(G).$$

We now proceed to characterize the graphs achieving the lower bounds given by Theorem 3.5.

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs with no isolated vertex. If  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_{tR}(G)$ .
- (ii) *There exists a  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ -function  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  such that  $V_2$  is dominating set of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* If there exists a  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ -function  $f(V_0, V_1, V_2)$  such that  $V_2$  is dominating set of  $G$ , then  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) \leq |V_1 \cup V_2| + |V_2| = |V_1| + 2|V_2| = \gamma_{tR}(G)$ . Since  $\gamma_{tR}(G) \leq \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ , we conclude that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_{tR}(G)$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_{tR}(G)$ . Let  $g(V_0', V_1', V_2')$  be a  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$ -function satisfying Lemma 3.1. Let  $A = \{x \in V(G) : g(V(H_x)) = 1\}$  and  $B = \{x \in V(G) : g(V(H_x)) = 2\}$ . By Lemma 3.2,  $B$  is a dominating set of  $G$  and  $A \cup B$  is a total dominating set. Hence, we can define a TRDF  $h(V_0'', V_1'', V_2'')$  from  $V_1'' = A$  and  $V_2'' = B$ . Since  $\omega(h) = |A| + 2|B| = |V_1''| + 2|V_2''| = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_{tR}(G)$ , we conclude that  $h$  is a  $\gamma_{tR}(G)$ -function where  $V_2''$  is a dominating set, as desired.  $\square$

The next result gives a characterization for the case  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$  whenever  $\gamma(H) = 1$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs with no isolated vertex. If  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then the following statement are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ .
- (ii) *There exists a  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set that contains some  $\gamma(G)$ -set.*

*Proof.* If there exists a  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set  $X$  which contains a  $\gamma(G)$ -set  $B$ , then  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) \leq |X \setminus B| + 2|B| = |X| + |B| = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ , and by (i) we conclude that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$  and let  $(A, B)$  be a  $\xi(G)$ -pair. If the total dominating set  $A \cup B$  is a  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set, then we are done, as  $B$  is a dominating set and from  $\gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G) = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \xi(G) = |A| + 2|B| = |A \cup B| + |B| = \gamma_t(G) + |B|$  we deduce that  $B$  is a  $\gamma(G)$ -set. Suppose to the contrary, that  $|A \cup B| > \gamma_t(G)$ . In such a case,  $\gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G) = \xi(G) = |A| + 2|B| \geq |A \cup B| + |B| > \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore, the result follows.  $\square$

Figure 2 shows a graph  $G$  such that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G) = 7 > 6 = \gamma_{tR}(G)$  for every nontrivial graph  $H$  with  $\gamma(H) = 1$ .

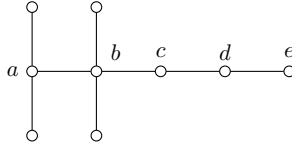


Figure 2: The  $\gamma_t(G)$ -set  $D = \{a, b, d, e\}$  contains the  $\gamma(G)$ -set  $S = \{a, b, d\}$ .

#### 4 Small values of $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$

In this short section we characterize the graphs  $G$  and  $H$  for which  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \in \{3, 4\}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *For any graph  $G$  and  $H$  with no isolated vertex, the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 3$ .
- (ii)  $\gamma(G) = \gamma(H) = 1$ .

*Proof.* If  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 3$ , then by Theorem 2.4 we deduce that  $\gamma(H) = 1$ . Moreover, by Theorem 3.5 we have that  $3 = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \geq \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G) \geq 3$ . Hence,  $\gamma(G) = 1$ , as required. Conversely, if  $\gamma(G) = \gamma(H) = 1$ , then by Theorem 3.8 we deduce that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 3$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.** *For any graph  $G$  and  $H$  with no isolated vertex,  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 4$  if and only if one of the following conditions are satisfied.*

- (i)  $\gamma_t(G) = 2$  and  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ .
- (ii)  $\gamma_t(G) = \gamma(G) = 2$  and  $\gamma(H) = 1$ .

*Proof.* We first notice that if conditions (i) or (ii) holds, then by Theorem 2.4 or by Theorem 3.5, respectively, it follows that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 4$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 4$ . If  $\gamma(H) \geq 2$ , then Theorem 2.4 leads to  $\gamma_t(G) = 2$ . From now on, we assume that  $\gamma(H) = 1$ . By Theorem 3.8, we have that  $4 = \gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) \geq \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$ . Hence,  $1 \leq \gamma(G) \leq 2$ . If  $\gamma(G) = 1$ , then by Theorem 4.1 we obtain that  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H) = 3$ , which is a contradiction. Hence,  $\gamma(G) = 2$  and so  $\gamma_t(G) = 2$ . Therefore, the result follows.  $\square$

#### 5 Open problems

By Theorem 3.3 we learned that, if we want to know the behaviour of  $\gamma_{tR}(G \circ H)$  when  $\gamma(H) = 1$ , then it is crucial to obtain the exact value or derive tight bounds on  $\xi(G)$ . In this sense, the study of  $\xi(G)$  is an interesting challenge.

In particular, Theorem 3.5 states that

$$\max\{\gamma_{tR}(G), \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)\} \leq \xi(G) \leq \min\{2\gamma(G) + \mu(G), 2\gamma_t(G)\}.$$

The graphs achieving the equalities  $\xi(G) = \gamma_{tR}(G)$  and  $\xi(G) = \gamma_t(G) + \gamma(G)$  were characterized in Theorems 3.7 and 3.8, respectively. Therefore, the problems of characterizing the graphs achieving the equalities  $\xi(G) = 2\gamma_t(G)$  and  $\xi(G) = 2\gamma(G) + \mu(G) = 3\gamma(G)$  remain open.

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