

# Paired Triple Connected Domination Number of a Graph

<sup>1</sup>G. Mahadevan, <sup>2</sup>Selvam Avadayappan, <sup>3</sup>A.Nagarajan,  
<sup>4</sup>A.Rajeswari, <sup>5</sup>T. Subramanian

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Mathematics, Anna University, Chennai -25 Tirunelveli Region

<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Mathematics, V.H.N.S.N College, Virudhunagar-626 001

<sup>3</sup>Dept. of Mathematics, V.O.Chidambaram College, Tuticorin-628 008

<sup>4</sup>Dept. of Mathematics, Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology Paiyanoor, Chennai- 603 104

<sup>5</sup>Research Scholar Anna University, Chennai -25 Tirunelveli Region

## Abstract

The concept of triple connected graphs with real life application was introduced in [10] by considering the existence of a path containing any three vertices of  $G$  and also they studied their properties. In [2, 4], the authors introduced the concept of triple connected domination number and complementary triple connected domination number of a graph. In this paper, we introduce another new concept called paired triple connected domination number of a graph. A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial connected graph  $G$  is said to be paired triple connected dominating set, if  $S$  is a triple connected dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  has a perfect matching. The minimum cardinality taken over all paired triple connected dominating sets is called the paired triple connected domination number and is denoted by  $\gamma_{ptc}$ . We determine this number for some standard classes of graphs and obtain some bounds for general graph. Its relationship with other graph theoretical parameters are investigated.

**Key words:** Domination Number, Triple connected graph, Paired triple connected domination number

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## 1. Introduction

By a *graph* we mean a finite, simple, connected and undirected graph  $G(V, E)$ , where  $V$  denotes its vertex set and  $E$  its edge set. Unless otherwise stated, the graph  $G$  has  $p$  vertices and  $q$  edges. *Degree* of a vertex  $v$  is denoted by  $d(v)$ , the *maximum degree* of a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $\Delta(G)$ . We denote a *cycle* on  $p$  vertices by  $C_p$ , a *path* on  $p$  vertices by  $P_p$ , and a *complete graph* on  $p$  vertices by  $K_p$ . A graph  $G$  is *connected* if any two vertices of  $G$  are connected by a path. A maximal connected subgraph of a graph  $G$  is called a *component* of  $G$ . The number of components of  $G$  is denoted by  $\omega(G)$ . The *complement*  $\bar{G}$  of  $G$  is the graph with vertex set  $V$  in which two vertices are adjacent if and only if they are not adjacent in  $G$ . A *tree* is a connected acyclic graph. A *bipartite graph* (or *bigraph*) is a graph whose vertices can be divided into two disjoint sets  $U$  and  $V$  such that every edge connects a vertex in  $U$  to one in  $V$ . A *complete bipartite graph* is a special kind of bipartite graph where every vertex of the first set is connected to every vertex of the second set. The complete bipartite graph with partitions of order  $|V_1|=m$  and  $|V_2|=n$ , is denoted  $K_{m,n}$ . A *star*, denoted by  $K_{1,p-1}$  is a tree with one root vertex and  $p-1$  pendant vertices. A *bistar*, denoted by  $B(m,n)$  is the graph obtained by joining the root vertices of the stars  $K_{1,m}$  and  $K_{1,n}$ . The *friendship graph*, denoted by  $F_n$  can be constructed by identifying  $n$  copies of the cycle  $C_3$  at a common vertex. A *wheel graph*, denoted by  $W_p$  is a graph with  $p$  vertices, formed by connecting a single vertex to all vertices of an  $(p-1)$  cycle. A *helm graph*, denoted by  $H_n$  is a graph obtained from the wheel  $W_n$  by joining a pendant vertex to each vertex in the outer cycle of  $W_n$  by means of an edge. A graph  $G$  is said to be *semi-complete* if and only if it is simple and for any two vertices  $u, v$  of  $G$  there is a vertex  $w$  of  $G$  such that  $w$  is adjacent to both  $u$  and  $v$  in  $G$  i.e.,  $uwv$  is a path in  $G$ . Let  $G$  be a finite graph and  $v \in V(G)$ , then  $N(N[v]) - N[v]$  is called the *consequent neighbourhood set* of  $v$ , and its cardinality is called the *consequent neighbourhood number* of  $v$  in  $G$ . *Corona* of two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , denoted by  $G_1 \square G_2$  is the disjoint union of one copy of  $G_1$  and  $|V_1|$  copies of  $G_2$  ( $|V_1|$  is the number of vertices in  $G_1$ ) in which  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex of  $G_1$  is joined to every vertex in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $G_2$ . For any real number  $x$ ,  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  denotes the largest integer less than or equal to  $x$ . If  $S$  is a subset of  $V$ , then  $\langle S \rangle$  denotes the vertex induced subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $S$ . The *open neighbourhood* of a set  $S$  of vertices of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $N(S)$  is the set of all vertices adjacent to some vertex in  $S$  and  $N(S) \cup S$  is called the *closed neighbourhood* of  $S$ , denoted by  $N[S]$ . The *diameter* of a connected graph is the maximum distance between two vertices in  $G$  and is denoted by  $\text{diam}(G)$ . A *cut-vertex* (*cut edge*) of a graph  $G$  is a vertex (edge) whose removal increases the number of components. A *vertex cut*, or *separating set* of a connected graph  $G$  is a set of vertices whose removal renders  $G$  disconnected. The *connectivity* or *vertex connectivity* of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\kappa(G)$  (where  $G$  is not complete) is the size of a smallest vertex cut. A connected subgraph  $H$  of a connected graph  $G$  is called a **H-cut** if  $\omega(G-H) \geq 2$ . The *chromatic number* of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\chi(G)$  is the smallest number of colors needed to colour all the vertices of a graph  $G$  in which adjacent vertices receive different colour. Terms not defined here are used in the sense of [1].

A subset  $S$  of  $V$  is called a **dominating set** of  $G$  if every vertex in  $V - S$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $S$ . The **domination number**  $\gamma(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality taken over all dominating sets in  $G$ . A dominating set  $S$  of a connected graph  $G$  is said to be a **connected dominating set** of  $G$  if the induced sub graph  $\langle S \rangle$  is connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all connected dominating sets is the **connected domination number** and is denoted by  $\gamma_c$ . A dominating set  $S$  of a connected graph  $G$  is said to be a **tree dominating set** of  $G$  if the induced sub graph  $\langle S \rangle$  is a tree. The minimum cardinality taken over all tree dominating sets is the **tree domination number** and is denoted by  $\gamma_{tr}$ .

Many authors have introduced different types of domination parameters by imposing conditions on the dominating set [8,11]. Recently the concept of triple connected graphs was introduced by Paulraj Joseph J. et. al., [10] by considering the existence of a path containing any three vertices of  $G$ . They have studied the properties of triple connected graph and established many results on them. A graph  $G$  is said to be **triple connected** if any three vertices lie on a path in  $G$ . All paths and cycles, complete graphs and wheels are some standard examples of triple connected graphs.

In [2, 4], the authors introduced the concept of triple connected domination number and complementary triple connected domination number of a graph.

A dominating set  $S$  of a connected graph  $G$  is said to be a **triple connected dominating set** of  $G$  if the induced sub graph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all triple connected dominating sets is the **triple connected domination number** and is denoted by  $\gamma_{tc}$ . A dominating set  $S$  of a connected graph  $G$  is said to be a **complementary triple connected dominating set** of  $G$  if  $S$  is a dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle V - S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all complementary triple connected dominating sets is the **complementary triple connected domination number** and is denoted by  $\gamma_{ctc}$ .

In this paper we use this idea to develop another new concept called paired triple connected dominating set and paired triple connected domination number of a graph.

**Theorem 1.1 [10]** A tree  $T$  is triple connected if and only if  $T \cong P_p; p \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 1.2 [10]** A connected graph  $G$  is not triple connected if and only if there exists a  $H$ -cut with  $\omega(G - H) \geq 3$  such that  $|V(H) \cap N(C_i)| = 1$  for at least three components  $C_1, C_2,$  and  $C_3$  of  $G - H$ .

**Theorem 1.3 [6]**  $G$  is semi - complete graph with  $p \geq 4$  vertices. Then  $G$  has a vertex of degree 2 if and only if one of the vertices of  $G$  has consequent neighbourhood number  $p - 3$ .

**Theorem 1.4 [6]**  $G$  is semi - complete graph with  $p \geq 4$  vertices such that there is a vertex with consequent neighbourhood number  $p - 3$ . Then  $\gamma(G) \leq 2$ .

**Notation 1.4** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $m$  vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$ . The graph  $G(n_1P_{l_1}, n_2P_{l_2}, n_3P_{l_3}, \dots, n_mP_{l_m})$  where  $n_i, l_i \geq 0$  and  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , is obtained from  $G$  by pasting  $n_1$  times a pendant vertex of  $P_{l_1}$  on the vertex  $v_1, n_2$  times a pendant vertex of  $P_{l_2}$  on the vertex  $v_2$  and so on.

**Example 1.5** Let  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$ , be the vertices of  $K_4$ , the graph  $K_4(2P_2, P_3, 3P_2, P_2)$  is obtained from  $K_4$  by pasting 2 times a pendant vertex of  $P_2$  on  $v_1, 1$  times a pendant vertex of  $P_3$  on  $v_2, 3$  times a pendant vertex of  $P_2$  on  $v_3$  and 1 times a pendant vertex of  $P_2$  on  $v_4$  and the graph shown below in  $G_1$  of Figure 1.1.

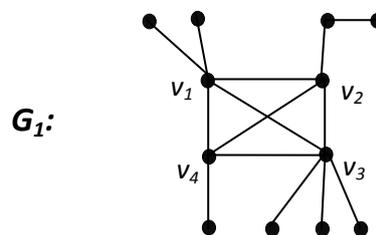


Figure 1.1

## 2 Paired Triple connected domination number

**Definition 2.1** A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial graph  $G$  is said to be a **paired triple connected dominating set**, if  $S$  is a triple connected dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  has a perfect matching. The minimum cardinality taken over all paired triple connected dominating sets is called the **paired triple connected domination number** and is denoted by  $\gamma_{ptc}$ .

Any paired triple connected dominating set with  $\gamma_{ptc}$  vertices is called a  $\gamma_{ptc}$ -set of  $G$ .

**Example 2.2** For the graph  $C_5 = v_1v_2v_3v_4v_5v_1, S = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  forms a paired triple connected dominating set. Hence  $\gamma_{ptc}(C_5) = 4$ .

**Observation 2.3** Paired triple connected dominating set does not exist for all graphs and if exists, then  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) \geq 4$ .

**Example 2.4** For the graph  $G_2$  in Figure 2.1, we cannot find any paired triple connected dominating set.

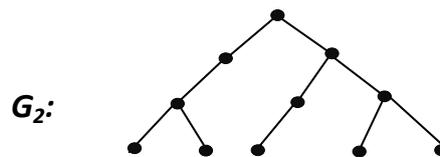


Figure 2.1

**Remark 2.5** Throughout this paper we consider only connected graphs for which paired triple connected dominating set exists.

**Observation 2.6** The complement of the paired triple connected dominating set need not be a paired triple connected dominating set.

**Example 2.7** For the graph  $G_3$  in Figure 2.2,  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  is a paired triple connected dominating set of  $G_3$ . But the complement  $V - S = \{v_5, v_6, v_7, v_8\}$  is not a paired triple connected dominating set.

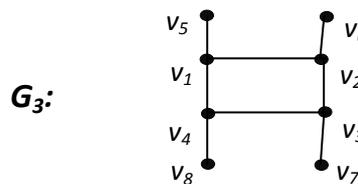


Figure 2.2

**Observation 2.8** Every paired triple connected dominating set is a dominating set but not the converse.

**Observation 2.9** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma(G) \leq \gamma_c(G) \leq \gamma_{tc}(G) \leq \gamma_{ptc}(G)$  and the inequalities are strict and for a connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 5$  vertices,  $\gamma_c(G) \leq \gamma_{tr}(G) \leq \gamma_{tc}(G) \leq \gamma_{ptc}(G)$ .

**Example 2.10** For the graph  $G_4$  in Figure 2.3,  $\gamma(G_4) = \gamma_c(G_4) = \gamma_{tc}(G_4) = \gamma_{ptc}(G_4) = 4$  and for  $C_6$   $\gamma_c(C_6) = \gamma_{tr}(C_6) = \gamma_{tc}(C_6) = \gamma_{ptc}(C_6) = 4$ .

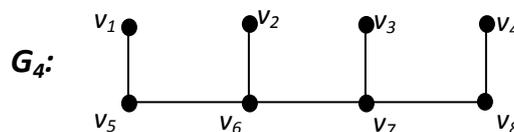


Figure 2.3

**Theorem 2.11** If the induced subgraph of all connected dominating set of  $G$  has more than two pendant vertices, then  $G$  does not contain a paired triple connected dominating set.

**Proof** This theorem follows from *Theorem 1.2*.

**Example 2.12** For the graph  $G_5$  in Figure 2.4,  $S = \{v_4, v_5, v_6, v_7, v_8, v_9\}$  is a minimum connected dominating set so that  $\gamma_c(G_5) = 6$ . Here we notice that the induced subgraph of  $S$  has three pendant vertices and hence  $G$  does not contain a paired triple connected dominating set.

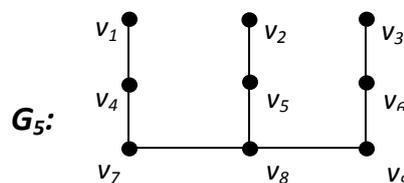


Figure 2.4

Paired Triple connected domination number for some standard graphs are given below

- 1) For any path of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(P_p) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } p = 4 \\ p - 1 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd} \\ p - 2 & \text{if } p \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$
- 2) For any cycle of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(C_p) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } p = 4 \\ p - 1 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd} \\ p - 2 & \text{if } p \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$
- 3) For the complete bipartite graph of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(K_{m,n}) = 4$ .  
(where  $m, n \geq 2$  and  $m + n = p$ ).
- 4) For any complete graph of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(K_p) = 4$ .
- 5) For any wheel of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(W_p) = 4$ .
- 6) For any helm graph of order  $p \geq 9$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(H_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{p-1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{p-1}{2} + 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$   
(where  $2n - 1 = p$ ).
- 7) For any bistar of order  $p \geq 4$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(B(m, n)) = 4$  (where  $m, n \geq 1$  and  $m + n + 2 = p$ ).

**Observation 2.13** If a spanning sub graph  $H$  of a graph  $G$  has a paired triple connected dominating set then  $G$  also has a paired triple connected dominating set.

**Observation 2.14** Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $H$  be a spanning sub graph of  $G$ . If  $H$  has a paired triple connected dominating set, then  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) \leq \gamma_{ptc}(H)$  and the bound is sharp.

**Example 2.15** Consider  $C_6$  and its spanning subgraph  $P_6$ ,  $\gamma_{ptc}(C_6) = \gamma_{ptc}(P_6) = 4$ .

**Observation 2.16** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p$  vertices,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p$  if and only if  $G \cong P_4, C_4, K_4, C_3(P_2), K_4 - \{e\}$ .

**Theorem 2.17** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 5$ , we have  $4 \leq \gamma_{ptc}(G) \leq p - 1$  and the bounds are sharp.

**Proof** The lower and upper bounds follows from *Definition 2.1* and *Observation 2.3* and *Observation 2.16*. For  $P_5$ , the lower bound is attained and for  $C_7$  the upper bound is attained.

**Theorem 2.18** For a connected graph  $G$  with 5 vertices,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p - 1$  if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $P_5, C_5, W_5, K_5, K_{2,3}, F_2, K_5 - \{e\}, K_4(P_2), C_4(P_2), C_3(P_3), C_3(2P_2), C_3(P_2, P_2, 0), P_4(0, P_2, 0, 0)$  or any one of the graphs shown in Figure 2.5.

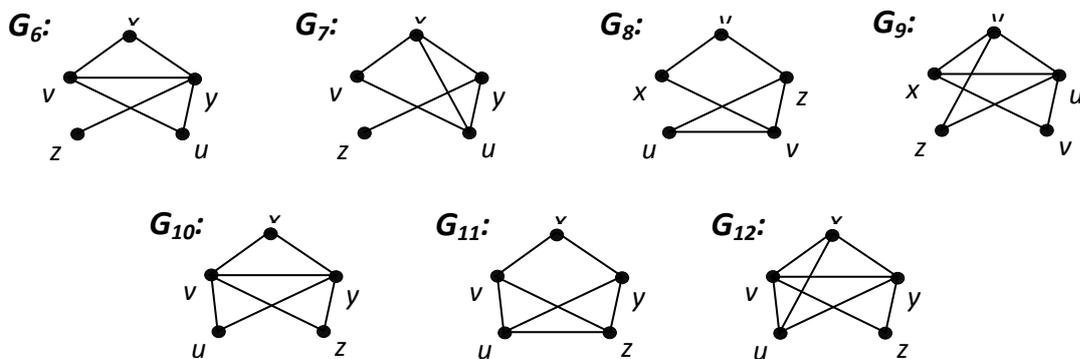


Figure 2.5

**Proof** Suppose  $G$  is isomorphic to  $P_5, C_5, W_5, K_5, K_{2,3}, F_2, K_5 - \{e\}, K_4(P_2), C_4(P_2), C_3(P_3), C_3(2P_2), C_3(P_2, P_2, 0), P_4(0, P_2, 0, 0)$  or any one of the graphs  $G_6$  to  $G_{12}$  given in Figure 2.5., then clearly  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p - 1$ . Conversely, Let  $G$  be a connected graph with 5 vertices and  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p - 1$ . Let  $S = \{w, x, y, z\}$  be a paired triple connected dominating set of  $G$ . Let  $V - S = V(G) - V(S) = \{v\}$ .

**Case (i)**  $\langle S \rangle$  is not a tree.

Then  $\langle S \rangle$  contains a cycle  $C$ . Let  $C = wxyw$  and let  $z$  be adjacent to  $w$ . Since  $S$  is a paired triple connected dominating set, there exists a vertex say  $w$  or  $x$  (or  $y$ ) or  $z$  is adjacent to  $v$ . Let  $w$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = 4, d(x) = d(y) = 2, d(z) = 1$ , then  $G \cong C_3(2P_2)$ . Let  $x$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = d(x) = 3, d(y) = 2, d(z) = 1$ , then  $G \cong C_3(P_2, P_2, 0)$ . Let  $z$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = 3, d(x) = d(y) = d(z) = 2$ , then  $G \cong C_3(P_3)$ . Now by adding edges to  $C_3(2P_2), C_3(P_2, P_2, 0)$ , and  $C_3(P_3)$ , we have  $G \cong W_5, K_5, K_{2,3}, F_2, K_5 - \{e\}, K_4(P_2)$  or any one of the graphs  $G_6$  to  $G_{12}$  given in Figure 2.5.

**Case (ii)**  $\langle S \rangle$  is a tree.

Since  $S$  is a paired triple connected dominating set. Therefore by *Theorem 1.1*, we have  $\langle S \rangle \cong P_{p-1}$ . Since  $S$  paired triple connected dominating set, there exists a vertex say  $w$  (or  $z$ ) or  $x$  (or  $y$ ) is adjacent to  $v$ . Let  $w$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = d(x) = d(y) = 2, d(z) = 1$ , then  $G \cong P_5$ . Let  $w$  be adjacent to  $v$  and let  $z$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = d(x) = d(y) = d(z) = 2$ , then  $G \cong C_5$ . Let  $w$  be adjacent to  $v$  and let  $y$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = d(x) = 2, d(y) = 3, d(z) = 1$ , then  $G \cong C_4(P_2)$ . Let  $x$  be adjacent to  $v$ . If  $d(w) = d(z) = 1, d(x) = 3, d(y) = 2$ , then  $G \cong P_4(0, P_2, 0, 0)$ . In all the other cases, no new graph exists.

**Theorem 2.19** If  $G$  is a graph such that  $G$  and  $\bar{G}$  have no isolates of order  $p \geq 5$ , then  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \gamma_{ptc}(\bar{G}) \leq 2(p - 1)$  and the bound is sharp.

**Proof** The bound directly follows from the *Theorem 2.17*. For the cycle  $C_5, \gamma_{ptc}(G) + \gamma_{ptc}(\bar{G}) = 2(p - 1)$ .

**Theorem 2.20** If  $G$  is a semi - complete graph with  $p \geq 4$  vertices such that there is a vertex with consequent neighbourhood number  $p - 3$ , then  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = 4$ .

**Proof** By *Theorem 1.3*, it follows that there is a vertex say  $v$  of degree 2 in  $G$ . Let  $N(v) = \{v_1, v_2\}$  (say). Let  $u \in V(G) - N[v]$ . Since  $G$  is semi - complete and  $u, v \in V(G)$ , there is a  $w \in V(G)$  such that  $\{u, w, v\}$  is a path in  $G$ . Clearly  $w \in N(v)$ . Therefore the vertices not in  $N[v]$  is dominated by either  $v_1$  or  $v_2$ . Here the  $S = \{u, v_1, v, v_2\}$  is a paired triple connected dominating set of  $G$ . Hence  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = 4$ .

### 3 Paired Triple Connected Domination Number and Other Graph Theoretical Parameters

**Theorem 3.1** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 5$  vertices,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \kappa(G) \leq 2p - 2$  and the bound is sharp if and only if  $G \cong K_5$ .

**Proof** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $p \geq 5$  vertices. We know that  $\kappa(G) \leq p - 1$  and by *Theorem 2.17*,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) \leq p - 1$ . Hence  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \kappa(G) \leq 2p - 2$ . Suppose  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_5$ . Then clearly  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \kappa(G) = 2p - 2$ . Conversely, Let  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \kappa(G) = 2p - 2$ . This is possible only if  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p - 1$  and  $\kappa(G) = p - 1$ . But  $\kappa(G) = p - 1$ , and so  $G \cong K_p$  for which  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = 4 = p - 1$  so that  $p = 5$ . Hence  $G \cong K_5$ .

**Theorem 3.2** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 5$  vertices,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \chi(G) \leq 2p - 1$  and the bound is sharp if and only if  $G \cong K_5$ .

**Proof** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $p \geq 5$  vertices. We know that  $\chi(G) \leq p$  and by *Theorem 2.17*,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) \leq p - 1$ . Hence  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \chi(G) \leq 2p - 1$ . Suppose  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_5$ . Then clearly

$\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \chi(G) = 2p - 2$ . Conversely, Let  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \chi(G) = 2p - 1$ . This is possible only if  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = p - 1$  and  $\chi(G) = p$ . But  $\chi(G) = p$ , and so  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_p$  for which  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) = 4 = p - 1$  so that  $p = 5$ . Hence  $G \cong K_5$ .

**Theorem 3.3** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 5$  vertices,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \Delta(G) \leq 2p - 2$  and the bound is sharp.

**Proof** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $p \geq 5$  vertices. We know that  $\Delta(G) \leq p - 1$  and by Theorem 2.17,  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) \leq p - 1$ . Hence  $\gamma_{ptc}(G) + \Delta(G) \leq 2p - 2$ . For  $K_5$ , the bound is sharp

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