

## Strength based domination in graphs

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**Abstract:** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. Let  $A \subseteq V$  and  $v \in V - A$ . The dominating strength of  $A$  on  $v$  is defined by  $s(v, A) = \sum_{u \in A} \frac{1}{d(u, v)}$ . A subset  $D$  of  $V$  is called a strength based dominating set if for every vertex  $v \notin D$ , there exists a subset  $A$  of  $D$  such that  $s(v, A) \geq 1$ . The  $sb$ -domination number  $\gamma_{sb}(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of a strength based dominating set of  $G$ . In this paper we initiate a study of this parameter and indicate directions for further research.

**Keywords:** distance, domination, dominating strength,  $sb$ -domination.

**AMS Subject classification:** 05C69

## 1. Introduction

By a graph  $G = (V, E)$  we mean a finite, undirected, connected graph with neither loops nor multiple edges. For graph theoretic terminology we refer to the book [1]. A subset  $D$  of  $V$  is called a dominating set of  $G$  if every vertex  $v$  in  $V - D$  is adjacent to a vertex  $u$  in  $D$ . The minimum cardinality of a dominating set of  $G$  is called the domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma(G)$ . The concept of domination in graphs and its several variants have been extensively investigated. For fundamentals of domination in graphs we refer to [5].

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Different types of dominating sets have been formulated by putting restrictions on the induced subgraph  $G[D]$ . Connected domination, total domination, independent domination and paired domination are some of the domination parameters under this category. For a detailed study of total domination in graphs we refer to the book [6]. Another type of generalization is by putting restrictions on  $N(v) \cap D$  and examples of such a type are weak domination, strong domination,  $k$ -domination and perfect domination. For further details of various types of domination models we refer to the Appendix in [5].

The distance  $d(u, v)$  between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a graph is the length of a shortest  $u$ - $v$  path in  $G$ . The eccentricity of a vertex  $v$  is defined by  $ecc(v) = \max\{d(u, v) : u \in V\}$ . The radius and diameter of  $G$  are defined by  $rad(G) = \min\{ecc(v) : v \in V\}$  and  $diam(G) = \max\{ecc(v) : v \in V\}$ .

In several real life situations such as social networks, communication networks and biological networks, the influence of a vertex extends beyond its neighborhood but decreases with distance. To address this problem Dankelmann et al. [2] introduced the concept of exponential domination and exponential domination number of a graph, in which the dominating power of a vertex is decreasing exponentially by the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  with distance.

Goddard et al. [4] introduced the concept of disjunctive domination number of a graph. [This concept reconsider in \[3\]](#).

**Definition 1.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. A subset  $D$  of  $V$  is called a disjunctive dominating set of  $G$ , if every vertex  $v \notin D$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $D$  or has at least two distinct vertices at a distance two from  $v$ . The minimum cardinality of a disjunctive dominating set of  $G$  is called disjunctive domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_2^d(G)$ .

**Theorem 1.** ([4]) Let  $G$  be any graph. Then  $\gamma_2^d(G) \leq \gamma(G)$ .

**Theorem 2.** ([4]) For any positive integer  $n$ ,  $\gamma_2^d(P_n) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{4} \rceil$ .

**Theorem 3.** ([4]) For any positive integer  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$\gamma_2^d(C_n) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n = 4 \\ \lceil \frac{n}{4} \rceil & \text{if } n \neq 4 \end{cases}$$

We need the following definitions and theorem.

**Definition 2.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs. The corona  $G_1 \circ G_2$  is the graph obtained from one copy of  $G_1$  and  $|V(G_1)|$  copies of  $G_2$  by joining the  $i^{th}$  vertex of  $G_1$  to all the vertices in the  $i^{th}$  copy of  $G_2$ .

**Definition 3.** The Cartesian product  $G = G_1 \square G_2$  of two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  has  $V(G) = V(G_1) \times V(G_2)$  and two vertices  $(u_1, v_1)$  and  $(u_2, v_2)$  are adjacent in  $G$  if either  $u_1 = u_2$  and  $v_1 v_2 \in E(G_2)$  or  $v_1 = v_2$  and  $u_1 u_2 \in E(G_1)$ .

**Theorem 4.** ([5], Page 56) For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\left\lceil \frac{\text{diam}(G)+1}{3} \right\rceil \leq \gamma(G)$ .

In this paper we introduce the concept of strength based domination in graphs which is a variant of the exponential model considered by Dankelmann et al. [2]. We present several basic results on strength based domination number and indicate directions for further research.

## 2. On $sb$ -domination

In a social network a member  $v$  is very often influenced by another member  $u$  who is not in its neighborhood  $N(v)$ . In fact there is a possibility that the member  $v$  is influenced by a group of members who are not in  $N(v)$ . We propose the concept of dominating strength and the associated parameters to address the above situation.

**Definition 4.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph and let  $u, v \in V$ . The dominating strength  $s(u, v)$  between  $u$  and  $v$  is defined as  $s(u, v) = \frac{1}{d(u, v)}$ . The dominating strength  $\text{ds}(v)$  of  $v$  is defined as  $\text{ds}(v) = \sum_{u \neq v} s(u, v) = \sum_{u \neq v} \frac{1}{d(u, v)}$ . The sequence  $\Pi = (\text{ds}(v_1), \text{ds}(v_2), \dots, \text{ds}(v_n))$  where  $\text{ds}(v_1) \geq \text{ds}(v_2) \geq \dots \geq \text{ds}(v_n)$  is called the dominating strength sequence or simply the  $\text{ds}$ -sequence of  $G$ .

**Example 1.** For the graph  $G$  given in Figure 1,

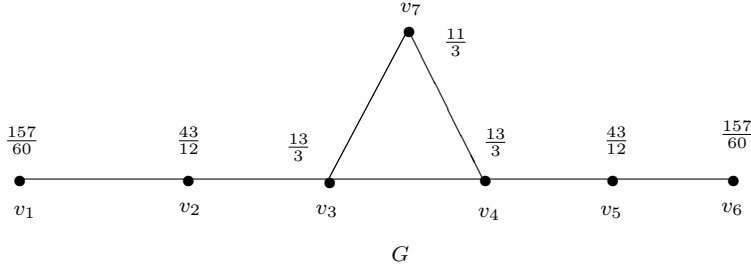
$$\text{ds}(v_i) = \begin{cases} \frac{157}{60} & \text{if } i = 1 \text{ or } 6 \\ \frac{43}{12} & \text{if } i = 2 \text{ or } 5 \\ \frac{13}{3} & \text{if } i = 3 \text{ or } 4 \\ \frac{11}{3} & \text{if } i = 7. \end{cases}$$

Hence the  $\text{ds}$ -sequence  $\Pi$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= \left( \frac{13}{3}, \frac{13}{3}, \frac{11}{3}, \frac{43}{12}, \frac{43}{12}, \frac{157}{60}, \frac{157}{60} \right) \\ &= (\text{ds}(v_3), \text{ds}(v_4), \text{ds}(v_7), \text{ds}(v_2), \text{ds}(v_5), \text{ds}(v_1), \text{ds}(v_6)). \end{aligned}$$

**Observation 5.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  and let  $v \in V$ . Then  $\deg(v) \leq \text{ds}(v)$  and equality holds if and only if  $\deg(v) = n - 1$ .

**Definition 5.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$ . Let  $A \subseteq V$  and  $v \in V - A$ . Then the dominating strength of  $A$  on  $v$  is defined by  $\text{ds}(A, v) = \sum_{u \in A} \frac{1}{d(v, u)}$ .



**Figure 1.** A graph and its ds-sequence

**Example 2.** A graph  $G$  with its ds-sequence is given in Figure 1. In this graph

$$\text{ds}(\{v_1, v_2\}, v_6) = \frac{1}{d(v_6, v_1)} + \frac{1}{d(v_6, v_2)} = \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{4} = 0.45.$$

If  $D$  is a dominating set of  $G$ , then any vertex  $v \notin D$  is dominated by a vertex in  $D$ . In the case of disjunctive domination,  $v$  is dominated by a single vertex in  $D$  or is dominated by a set of two vertices in  $D$  each at distance 2 from  $v$ . We now introduce the concept of strength based domination in which  $v$  is dominated by a subset  $D_1$  of  $D$  and this is a generalization of domination and disjunctive domination.

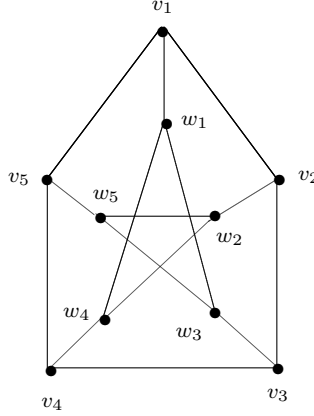
**Definition 6.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph. A subset  $D$  of  $V$  is called a strength based dominating set or a *sb*-dominating set of  $G$  if for every  $v \in V - D$ , there exists a subset  $D_1$  of  $D$  such that  $\text{ds}(D_1, v) \geq 1$ . The minimum cardinality of a *sb*-dominating set of  $G$  is called the *sb*-domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{sb}(G)$ . Also *sb*-dominating set of cardinality  $\gamma_{sb}$  is called a  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ .

**Observation 6.** Let  $D$  be a *sb*-dominating set of  $G$  and let  $v \in V - D$ . Obviously  $\text{ds}(D, v) \geq 1$  if and only if there exists a subset  $D_1$  of  $D$  such that  $\text{ds}(D_1, v) \geq 1$ . The concept of *sb*-domination has interesting applications in social networks and in a large network identifying a subset  $D_1$  such that the members of  $D_1$  can collectively influence a member  $v \in V - D$  is a significant and relevant issue. Thus from application perspective the subset  $D_1$  in the above definition plays a crucial role.

**Observation 7.** For any graph  $G$ , we have  $\gamma(G) = \gamma_{sb}(G) = 1$  if and only if  $\Delta = n - 1$ .

**Observation 8.** Clearly any dominating set of  $G$  and any disjunctive dominating set of  $G$  are *sb*-dominating sets. Hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq \gamma_2^d(G) \leq \gamma(G)$ .

**Example 3.** For the Petersen graph  $G$  given in Figure 2,  $D = \{v_1, v_2\}$  is a *sb*-dominating set of  $G$ , since  $d(u, v_1) = d(u, v_2) = 2$  for all vertices  $u \in (V - D) \cup N(v_1) \cup N(v_2)$ . Also  $\Delta = 3 < n - 1$ . Hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ .



**Figure 2.** Petersen graph  $G : \gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ .

**Example 4.** Let  $G = K_n \circ K_1$ . Let  $V(K_n) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and let  $w_i$  be the pendent vertex adjacent to  $v_i$ . Clearly  $D = \{v_1, v_2\}$  is a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq 2$ . Since  $\Delta < |V(G)| - 1$ ,  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq 2$ . Hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ . Since  $\gamma(G) = n$ , it follows that the difference between  $\gamma_{sb}(G)$  and  $\gamma(G)$  can be arbitrarily large.

**Theorem 9.** For any positive integer  $k$ , there exists a graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = k$ .

*Proof.* For any graph  $G$  with  $\gamma(G) = 1$  or  $2$ , we have  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \gamma(G)$ . Suppose  $k \geq 3$ . Let  $G$  be the graph obtained from  $K_{1,k}$  by sub-dividing each edge  $(k-2)$  times. Let  $V(K_{1,k}) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  and  $\deg(v_0) = k$ . Let  $w_{i_1}, w_{i_2}, \dots, w_{i_{(k-2)}}$  be the vertices sub-dividing the edge  $v_0 v_i$ . Let  $P_i = (v_0, w_{i_1}, w_{i_2}, \dots, w_{i_{(k-2)}}, v_i)$ . Let  $D = \{w_{11}, w_{21}, \dots, w_{k1}\}$ . Now,  $\text{ds}(D, v_i) = (k-1)\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{k-2} = 1 + \left(\frac{1}{k-2} - \frac{1}{k}\right) > 1$ . Also,  $\text{ds}(D, u) \geq \text{ds}(D, v_i)$  for all  $u \in V - D$ . Hence  $D$  is a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$  and therefore  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq k$ . Now let  $S$  be any  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ . If  $S \cap V(P_i) = \emptyset$  for some  $i$ , then  $\text{ds}(v_i, S) \leq \frac{k-1}{k} + \frac{1}{k-1} < 1$ . Hence  $S \cap V(P_i) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i, 1 \leq i \leq k$  and so  $|S| \geq k$ . Thus  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq k$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = k$ .  $\square$

### 3. Bounds for $\gamma_{sb}$

The following theorems give an upper bound for  $\gamma_{sb}(G)$  and a characterization of all extremal graphs which attain the bound.

**Theorem 10.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$ . Let  $\Delta_{sb} = \max\{\text{ds}(v) : v \in V\}$ . Then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq n - \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$ .

*Proof.* Let  $v \in V$  and  $\text{ds}(v) = \Delta_{sb}$ . Let  $n-i = \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$ . Hence  $n-i \leq \Delta_{sb} < n-i+1$ . Therefore,  $n-i \leq \text{ds}(v) < n-i+1$ . Also  $\text{ds}(v) \leq \deg(v) + \frac{n-1-\deg(v)}{2} = \frac{\deg(v)}{2} + \left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)$

and hence  $n - i \leq \frac{\deg(v)}{2} + \left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)$ . Thus,  $\deg(v) \geq n - 2i + 1$ .

Since  $\lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor = n - i$ , we have  $\deg(v) \leq n - i$ . Hence,  $n - 2i + 1 \leq \deg(v) \leq n - i$ . Thus,  $\deg(v) = n - 2i + j$  where  $1 \leq j \leq i$ . Now let  $G_1 = G[V - N[v]]$ . Clearly,  $|V(G_1)| = n - \deg(v) - 1 = 2i - j - 1$ . Let  $A$  denote the set of all isolated vertices in  $G_1$  and let  $|A| = k$ . Then  $G_1 - A$  is a graph of order  $2i - j - 1 - k$  and has no isolated vertices. Let  $D$  be a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G_1 - A$ . Therefore

$$|D| = \gamma(G_1 - A) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{2i - j - 1 - k}{2} \right\rfloor \leq \left\lfloor \frac{2i - 2 - k}{2} \right\rfloor = i - 1 - \left\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Hence

$$|D| \leq i - 1 - \left\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \right\rfloor. \quad (3.1)$$

If  $k = 0$ , let  $B = \{v\}$ .

If  $k = 1$  or  $2$ , let  $B$  be a subset of  $N(v)$  of minimum order such that  $B$  dominates  $A$ . Clearly  $|B| = 1$  if  $k = 1$  and  $|B| = 2$  if  $k = 2$ .

If  $k \geq 3$ , let  $B = \{v, u, w\}$  where  $u, w \in A$ . Let  $D_1 = D \cup B$ . It follows from (3.1) that

$$|D_1| \leq i \text{ if } k = 0, 3 \text{ or } 4 \text{ or } k = 2 \text{ and } |B| = 2 \quad (3.2)$$

$$\text{and } |D_1| < i \text{ if } k = 2 \text{ and } |B| = 1 \text{ or } k \geq 5. \quad (3.3)$$

Since  $D$  dominates  $G_1 - A$  and  $B$   $sb$ -dominates  $N[v] \cup A$ , it follows that  $D_1$  is a  $sb$ -dominating of  $G$ . Also  $|D_1| \leq i = n - \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$ . Hence  $\gamma_{sb} \leq n - \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 11.** *Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph of order  $n$ . Then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = n - \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$  if and only if the following conditions hold.*

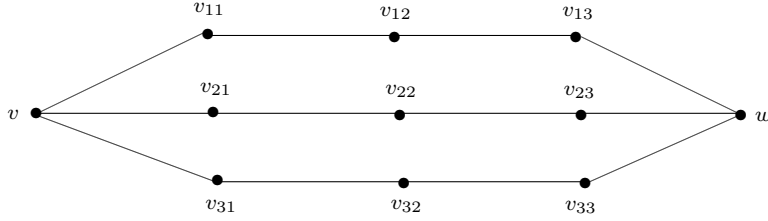
- (i) *There exists a vertex  $v$  such that  $ds(v) = \Delta_{sb}$  and  $\deg(v) = 2\lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor + 1 - n$ .*
- (ii) *The number of isolated vertices  $k$  in  $G - N[v]$  is at most 4 and if  $k = 2$ , then the two isolated vertices have no common neighbor in  $N(v)$ .*

*Proof.*  $\gamma_{sb} = n - \lfloor \Delta_{sb} \rfloor$  if and only if equality holds in (1) and (2) of Theorem 10. Also equality holds in (1) if and only if  $j = 1$  and  $\gamma(G - N[v]) = \left\lfloor \frac{|V(G) - N[v]|}{2} \right\rfloor + k$ . Equality holds in (2) if and only if  $k \leq 4$  and  $|B| = 2$  when  $k = 2$ . Hence the result follows.  $\square$

We now proceed to obtain lower bounds for  $\gamma_{sb}$ .

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$ . Then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{1 + \Delta_{sb}} \right\rceil$  and the bound is sharp.*

*Proof.* Let  $D$  be a  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ . Since  $\text{ds}(v) \leq \Delta_{sb}$  for all  $v \in D$ , we have  $\sum_{v \in D} \text{ds}(v) \leq |D|\Delta_{sb}$ . Also  $\text{ds}(D, w) \geq 1$  for all  $w \in V - D$  and hence  $\sum_{v \in D} \text{ds}(v) \geq n - |D|$ . Thus  $n - |D| \leq \sum_{v \in D} \text{ds}(v) \leq |D|\Delta_{sb}$ . Hence  $n \leq |D|(\Delta_{sb} + 1)$  and so  $\gamma_{sb} \geq \left\lceil \frac{n}{1 + \Delta_{sb}} \right\rceil$ . Also for the graph  $G$  given in Figure 3,  $\Delta_{sb} = 5.75$  and  $D = \{v, w\}$  is a  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ . Hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2 = \left\lceil \frac{n}{1 + \Delta_{sb}} \right\rceil$ . Thus the bound is sharp.  $\square$



**Figure 3.** A graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \left\lceil \frac{n}{1 + \Delta_{sb}} \right\rceil$ .

**Theorem 13.** Let  $\Pi = (\text{ds}(v_1), \text{ds}(v_2), \dots, \text{ds}(v_n))$  be the  $\text{ds}$ -sequence of a graph and let  $\text{ds}(v_1) \geq \text{ds}(v_2) \geq \dots \geq \text{ds}(v_n)$ . Let  $t = \min\{k : k + \text{ds}(v_1) + \text{ds}(v_2) + \dots + \text{ds}(v_k) \geq n\}$ . Then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq t$  and the bound is sharp.

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be any subset of  $V$  with  $|S| = r < t$ . Hence  $r + \text{ds}(v_1) + \text{ds}(v_2) + \dots + \text{ds}(v_t) < n$ . Also  $\sum_{v \in S} \text{ds}(v) \leq \text{ds}(v_1) + \text{ds}(v_2) + \dots + \text{ds}(v_t)$ . Hence  $|S| + \sum_{v \in S} \text{ds}(v) < n$ .

Thus

$$|S| + \sum_{v \in S} \left( \sum_{u \neq v} \frac{1}{d(v, u)} \right) < n. \quad (3.4)$$

Now, suppose  $S$  is a  $sb$ -dominating of  $G$ .

Then  $\sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{d(u, v)} \geq 1$  for all  $u \in V - S$ . Hence  $\sum_{u \in V - S} \left( \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{d(u, v)} \right) \geq n - |S|$ . Therefore  $|S| + \sum_{u \in V - S} \left( \sum_{v \in S} \frac{1}{d(u, v)} \right) \geq n$  which contradicts (4). Hence  $S$  is not a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$ . So  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq t$ .  $\square$

#### 4. $sb$ -domination and diameter

In this section we present several basic results and bounds for  $\gamma_{sb}$  in terms of the diameter of a graph.

**Observation 14.** If  $\text{diam}(G) = 1$ , then  $G = K_n$  and  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \text{diam}(G) = 1$ . If  $\text{diam}(G) = 2$ , then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta = n - 1 \\ 2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

**Lemma 1.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq \text{diam}(G)$  and the bound is sharp.

*Proof.* Let  $\text{diam}(G) = d$  and let  $D = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d\}$  be any subset of  $V$  with  $|D| = \text{diam}(G) = d$ . Since  $d(u, v) \leq d$  for all  $u, v \in V$ , it follows that  $D$  is a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq d$ . By Observation 14, it follows that equality holds if  $d = 1$  or  $d = 2$  and  $\Delta \neq n - 1$ .  $\square$

For any positive integer  $t$ , there exists a graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \text{diam}(G) = t$ , as shown in the following theorem.

**Theorem 15.** For any positive integer  $t$ , there exists a graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \text{diam}(G) = t$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G = K_t \square K_t \square \dots \square K_t$  be the Cartesian product of  $t$  copies of  $K_t$ . Clearly,  $\text{diam}(G) = t$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq t$ . Now let  $D = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{t-1}\}$  be any subset of  $V(G)$ . Let  $V_i = \{u_{i_1}, u_{i_2}, \dots, u_{i_t}\}$  be the vertex set of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $K_t$  in  $G$ . Let  $v_j = (u_{1j_1}, u_{2j_2}, \dots, u_{tj_t})$ , where  $1 \leq j \leq t - 1$ . Let  $1 \leq r \leq t$ . Since  $|D| = t - 1$ , we can choose  $u_{rk_r} \in V_r$  such that  $u_{rk_r} \neq u_{rj_r}$  for all  $j$  with  $1 \leq j \leq t - 1$ . Let  $u = (u_{1k_1}, u_{2k_2}, \dots, u_{tk_t})$ . Since  $u$  differs from  $v_j$  in all the  $t$  coordinates  $d(u, v_j) = t$ . Hence  $ds(D, u) = \frac{t-1}{t} < t$ . Thus  $D$  is not a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \geq t$ . Thus  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = t = \text{diam}(G)$ .  $\square$

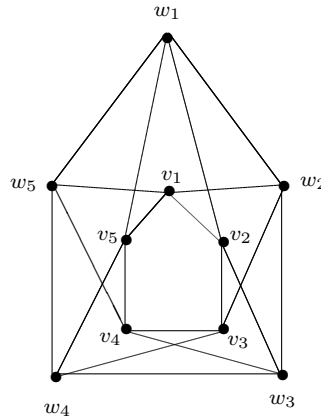
**Observation 16.** Let  $r$  be the radius of  $G$  and let  $Z(G)$  denote the centre of  $G$ . If  $|Z(G)| \geq r$ , then  $Z(G)$  is a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) \leq r$ .

**Theorem 17.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ . Then  $\text{diam}(G) \leq 6$ .

*Proof.* Let  $D = \{u, v\}$  be a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$ . If  $D$  is a dominating set of  $G$ , then it follows from Theorem 4 that  $\text{diam}(G) \leq 5$ . Suppose  $D$  is not a dominating set. Let  $D_1 = N[u] \cup N[v]$  and  $D_2 = V - D_1$ . Clearly  $D_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $D$  is a  $sb$ -dominating set of  $G$ , it follows that  $d(x, u) = d(x, v) = 2$  for all  $x \in D_2$ . Hence  $d(x, y) \leq 4$  if  $x, y \in D_2$  and  $d(x, y) \leq 3$  if  $x \in D_2$  and  $y \in D_1$ . Now, let  $x, y \in D_1$ . If  $x, y \in N(u)$  or  $x, y \in N(v)$  then  $d(x, y) \leq 2$ . If  $x \in N(u)$  and  $y \in N(v)$ , let  $w \in D_2$ . Then  $d(x, y) \leq d(x, u) + d(u, w) + d(w, v) + d(v, y) = 6$ . Thus  $d(x, y) \leq 6$  for all  $x, y \in V$  and hence  $\text{diam}(G) \leq 6$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 18.** Let  $k$  be a positive integer with  $2 \leq k \leq 6$ . Then there exists a graph  $G$  such that  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2, \gamma(G) > 2$  and  $\text{diam}(G) = k$ .





**Figure 4.** A graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = \text{diam}(G) = 2$  and  $\gamma(G) > 2$ .

*Proof.* If  $k = 5$  then for the graph  $G$  given in Figure 1,  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ ,  $\gamma(G) = 3$  and  $\text{diam}(G) = 5$ . If  $k = 6$ , then for the path  $G = P_7 = (v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6, v_7)$ , we have  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ ,  $\gamma(G) = 3$  and  $\text{diam}(G) = 6$ . If  $k = 4$ , then let  $G = P_3 \circ K_1$  where  $P_3 = v_1v_2v_3$  and let  $w_i$  be the pendent vertex adjacent to  $v_i$ . Then  $\{v_1, v_3\}$  is a  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ ,  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$  and  $d(w_1, w_3) = 4$ . Thus  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ ,  $\gamma(G) = 3$  and  $\text{diam}(G) = 4$ .

Assume now that  $k = 2$ . For the graph  $G$  given in Figure 4,  $\text{diam}(G) = 2$  and  $\Delta(G) \leq n - 2$ . Hence  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ . Also for any two vertices  $x, y$  in  $G$ ,  $N(x) \cap N(y) \neq \emptyset$ ,  $|N(x)| = |N(y)| = 4$  and hence  $|N[x] \cup N[y]| \leq 9$ . Thus  $\{x, y\}$  is not a dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma(G) > 2$ .

Finally let  $k = 3$ . Let  $G$  be the graph obtained from  $K_4 \circ K_1$  by removing one pendent vertex. Let  $V(K_4) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  and let  $w_i$  be the pendent vertex adjacent to  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ . Then  $D = \{v_1, v_2\}$  is a  $\gamma_{sb}$ -set of  $G$ ,  $D_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$  and  $d(w_1, w_3) = 3$ . Thus  $\gamma_{sb}(G) = 2$ ,  $\gamma(G) = 3$  and  $\text{diam}(G) = 3$ .  $\square$

## 5. Conclusion and Scope

The dominating strength  $\text{ds}(v)$  of a vertex is a topological index which is useful in identifying the most influential member in a social network. Also the concept of  $sb$ -domination is a natural generalization of domination and disjunctive domination in graphs. A study of total  $sb$ -domination, independent  $sb$ -domination and algorithmic aspects of  $sb$ -domination are a few promising directions for further research.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Data Availability:** Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

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