



On classes of neighborhood resolving sets of a graph

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Abstract

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple connected graph. A subset S of V is called a neighbourhood set of G if $G = \bigcup_{s \in S} \langle N[s] \rangle$, where $N[v]$ denotes the closed neighbourhood of the vertex v in G . Further for each ordered subset $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k\}$ of V and a vertex $u \in V$, we associate a vector $\Gamma(u/S) = (d(u, s_1), d(u, s_2), \dots, d(u, s_k))$ with respect to S , where $d(u, v)$ denote the distance between u and v in G . A subset S is said to be resolving set of G if $\Gamma(u/S) \neq \Gamma(v/S)$ for all $u, v \in V - S$. A neighbouring set of G which is also a resolving set for G is called a neighbourhood resolving set (*nr*-set). The purpose of this paper is to introduce various types of *nr*-sets and compute minimum cardinality of each set, in possible cases, particularly for paths and cycles.

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1. Introduction

All the graphs considered in this paper are connected, simple, undirected, and finite. Let p_1 be a graph property satisfied by at least one subset of vertices of G . Then such subsets S which satisfies the property p_1 are called p_1 -sets of G . A p_1 -set S of G is called a P_1 -set if \bar{S} is not a p_1 -set of G . A p_1^* -set of G is a set S such that both S and \bar{S} are p_1 -sets of G . A P_1^* -set of G is a

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set S such that both S and \bar{S} are not p_1 -sets of G . If p_2 is another graph property satisfied by any subset of vertices of G , then a set S which satisfies both the property p_1 and p_2 is called a p_1p_2 -set. If S is a p_1 -set and also a p_2^* -set, then we say S is a $p_1p_2^*$ -set. Similarly, $p_1p_2p_3$ -sets, $p_1P_2^*p_3$ -sets, $p_1P_2P_3^*$ -sets, etc., are defined.

A pq -set is said to be a minimal pq -set of G if none of its proper subsets are pq -set of G . The minimum cardinality of a minimal pq -set of G is called lower pq number of G and is denoted by $l_{pq}(G)$.

Let G be a graph and v be a vertex of G . Let $N(v)$ be the set of vertices adjacent to v in G and $N[v] = N(v) \cup \{v\}$. A subset S of vertex set of G is called a neighbourhood set or an n -set of G if $G = \bigcup_{v \in S} \langle N[v] \rangle$, where $\langle N[v] \rangle$ is the subgraph of G induced by the set S . Further a subset S of a vertex set of G is called a resolving set or an r -set of G if for each pair $u, v \notin S$ there is a vertex $w \in S$ with the property that $d(v, w) \neq d(u, w)$.

The metric dimension of G , denoted by $\beta(G)$, is the minimum cardinality of all the resolving sets of G . A resolving set with minimum cardinality is called a *metric basis*. The concept of Metric dimension was introduced by F. Harary and R.A. Melter [3] and independently by P.J. Slater [13] under the term locating set. For more works on metric dimension, we refer [2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15].

The neighbourhood number of a graph was introduced by E. Sampathkumar et al. in [8] and studied the relationship of $l_n(G)$ (denoted by n_0) with some other known graph parameters.

If S is both neighbourhood and resolving, then in the above notation we write S as an nr -set. The terms not defined here may found in [1]. Throughout this paper P_k denotes a path on k vertices with a vertex set $V = \{v_i : 1 \leq i \leq k\}$ and an edge set $E = \{v_i v_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq k - 1\}$. Similarly, C_k denotes a cycle on k vertices with a vertex set $V = \{v_i : 1 \leq i \leq k\}$ and an edge set $E = \{v_i v_{i+1}\} \cup \{v_1 v_k\}$.

Remark 1.1. From the definition of a resolving set, it is clear that any 2-element subset of vertices of a path P_k is always an r -set of P_k . In fact, if $S = \{a, b\}$ and u, v be arbitrary vertices of P_k such that $d(u, a) = d(v, a)$, then a is the central vertex of the uv -path in P_k , but then exactly one of the paths, ub -path or vb -path, in P_k contains the vertex a and hence $d(u, b) \neq d(v, b)$.

Remark 1.2. A singleton set $S = \{v\}$ is a resolving set of a path P if and only if v is an end vertex of P_k .

Remark 1.3. A subset of vertices of P_k containing an end vertex is always a resolving set of P_k .

Remark 1.4. For a connected graph G of order k , every subset of cardinality at least $k - 1$ is always an n -set.

Remark 1.5. Since a superset of any r -set of a graph G is also an r -set of the graph G , it follows from Remark 1.1 that every i -element subset of the vertex set of a path P_k is always an r -set of P_k , for every $i, 2 \leq i \leq k$.

Observation 1.1. Every n -set of a path P_k has at least 2 elements, whenever $k \geq 4$.

Observation 1.2. Every r -set of a path $P_k, 2 \leq k \leq 3$, contains a pendent vertex.

We recall the following for immediate reference;

Theorem 1.1 (S. Khuller, B. Raghavachari, and A. Rosenfeld [6]). *For a simple connected graph G , $\beta(G) = 1$ if and only if $G \cong P_k$.*

Theorem 1.2 (F. Harary and R.A.Melter [3]). *For any integer $k \geq 3$, the metric dimension of a cycle on k vertices is 2.*

Theorem 1.3 (B. Sooryanarayana [14]). *A graph G with $\beta(G) = k$, cannot contain $k_{2^{k+1} - (2^{k-1} - 1)e}$ as a subgraph.*

Theorem 1.4 (E. Sampathkumar and Prabha S. Neeralagi [9]). *For a path P_k on k vertices, the lower neighbourhood number $l_n(P_k) = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$.*

Theorem 1.5 (E. Sampathkumar and Prabha S. Neeralagi [8]). *For a cycle C_k of length $k \geq 4$, the lower neighbourhood number $l_n(C_k) = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$.*

Theorem 1.6 (E. Sampathkumar and Prabha S. Neeralagi [8]). *A set S of vertices of a graph G is an n -set if and only if every line of $\langle V(G) - S \rangle$ belongs to a triangle one of whose vertices belong to S .*

2. nr -sets and Dimensions of a Path

Theorem 2.1. *For any integer $k \geq 1$, $l_{nr}(P_k) = \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor, & \text{for } k \leq 3, \\ \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor, & \text{for } k \geq 4. \end{cases}$*

Proof. For the case $k = 1, 2$, it is easy to see that any singleton subset of $V(P_k)$ is always an nr -set. For $k = 3$, a singleton subset containing an end vertex is not an n -set and a singleton subset containing the central vertex is not an r -set of P_3 . Therefore, every nr -set should have at least two elements. Further, as any subset $S \subseteq V(P_3)$ with $|S| = 2$ is an nr -set for P_3 , $l_{nr}(P_3) = 2$. Now for $k \geq 4$, any subset $S \subseteq V(P_k)$ containing two or more elements is always an r -set (by Remark 1.5). Therefore, as $l_n(P_k) \geq 2$ for all $k \geq 4$, it follows that $l_{nr}(P_k) = l_n(P_k) = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$ (by Theorem 1.4). \square

Theorem 2.2. *For any integer $k \geq 1$, $l_{nR}(P_k) = \begin{cases} k, & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \\ k - 1, & \text{for } k \geq 3. \end{cases}$*

Proof. Let S be an nR -set of a path P_k . Then S is an r -set and \bar{S} is not an r -set. So, by Remark 1.1 and Remark 1.3, it follows that a minimal R -set S should contain both the end vertices and is of cardinality at least $k - 1$ whenever $k \geq 3$ or exactly k if $k \leq 2$. But then, by Remark 1.4, S is an n -set of P_k . Hence $l_{nR} = k - 1$ if $k \geq 3$ or $l_{nR} = k$ if $k \leq 2$. \square

Theorem 2.3. *For any integer $k \geq 1$, $l_{NR}(P_k) = \begin{cases} k, & \text{for } k \leq 2, \\ k - 1, & \text{for } k \geq 3. \end{cases}$*

Proof. Follows by the proof of the previous Theorem 2.2, as each nR -set S of P_k is also an NR -set of P_k (Since the set \bar{S} contains at most one element which is non-end vertex and hence by Observation 1.1 and Observation 1.2, \bar{S} is not an n -set if $k \neq 3$ and not an r -set if $k = 3$). \square

Lemma 2.1. Any independent set S of vertices of a path P_k contains more than $\frac{k}{2}$ vertices is always an n -set.

Proof. Let S be an independent set of the path P_k contains more than $\frac{k}{2}$ vertices. Then k is odd, $S = \{v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{k-2}, v_k\}$, and $\bigcup_{v \in S} N[v] = V(P_k)$. Let $e_i = v_i v_{i+1}$ be an edge of P_k , $1 \leq i \leq k-1$. Then e_i is an edge of either $\langle N[v_i] \rangle$ or $\langle N[v_{i+1}] \rangle$ depending upon whether i is odd or even. Hence for each i , the edge $e_i \in \langle N[v_j] \rangle$ for some odd j . Therefore, $\bigcup_{v_i \in S} \langle N[v_i] \rangle = G$. \square

Similarly, we prove:

Lemma 2.2. Any independent set S of vertices of a path P_{2k} contain (at least) k vertices is always an n -set of P_{2k} .

Lemma 2.3. If S is an n -set of the graph G , then \bar{S} is independent.

Proof. If not, suppose that \bar{S} contains two adjacent vertices say x and y , then the edge xy is not in the graph $\bigcup_{v \in S} \langle N[v] \rangle = G$, a contradiction to the fact that S is an n -set. \square

Theorem 2.4. For any integer, $l_{Nr}(P_k) = \begin{cases} k, & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \\ \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil, & \text{for } k \geq 3. \end{cases}$

Proof. The result is obvious for $k \leq 4$. Consider the case $k \geq 5$, let S be an N -set of P_k . Then S is an n -set, so by Theorem 1.4, $|S| \geq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor \geq 2$ vertices and hence by Remark 1.5, S is also an r -set. If k is odd and $|S| = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$, then $|\bar{S}| \geq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$, so by Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.1 the subset \bar{S} is an n -set, a contradiction to the fact that S is an N -set. Therefore, $|S| \geq \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ for all k implies that $l_{Nr}(P_k) \geq \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$. On the other hand, it is easy to see that the set $S = \{v_{2\lfloor \frac{k}{4} \rfloor}, v_{2\lfloor \frac{k}{4} \rfloor - 2}, \dots, v_2\} \cup \{v_p\} \cup \{v_{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor + 1}, v_{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor + 3}, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$ is an Nr -set of P_k with $|S| = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ where $p = 2$, if k is even and $p = 1$, if k is odd. Thus, $l_{Nr}(P_k) \leq \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$. \square

Theorem 2.5. For any positive integer k , $k \neq 1, 3$, $l_{n^*r}(P_k) = l_{nr^*}(P_k) = l_{n^*r^*}(P_k) = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$.

Proof. The result is obvious for $k = 2$. Now for the case $k \geq 4$, as every n^* -set S is also an n -set, we have $|S| \geq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$ (by Theorem 1.4) and hence $l_{n^*r^*}(P_k), l_{n^*r}(P_k), l_{nr^*}(P_k) \geq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$. On the other hand, we see that the set $S = \{v_2, v_4, \dots, v_{2\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor}\}$ is an n -set of P_k . So, by Lemma 2.1 or Lemma 2.2 respectively when k is odd or even, the set \bar{S} is an n -set. Since $k \geq 4$, both S and \bar{S} have at least two elements and hence each of them will resolve P_k . Hence S is an n^*r -set as well as nr^* -set and n^*r^* -set with $|S| = \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$. Therefore, $l_{n^*r}(P_k) \leq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor, l_{nr^*}(P_k) \leq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$, and $l_{n^*r^*}(P_k) \leq \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$. \square

Remark 2.1. When $k = 1$, \bar{S} is empty. Hence n^* -set as well as r^* -set are not defined. But when $k = 3$, it is easy to see that $l_{n^*r}(P_3) = l_{nr^*}(P_3) = 2$. However, P_3 has no n^*r^* -set S and hence $l_{n^*r^*}(P_3)$ is not defined.

Theorem 2.6. For any integer $k \geq 4$, $l_{N^*r}(P_k) = l_{N^*r^*}(P_k) = 2$.

Proof. Let S be an N^*r -set of P_k . Then S is not an n -set, \bar{S} is not an n -set, and S is an r -set. Now, if $|S| = 1$, then S contains only an end vertex of P_k (by Remark 1.2) and hence $|\bar{S}| = k - 1$. But then, \bar{S} is an n -set (by Remark 1.4), a contradiction. Thus, $2 \leq |S| \leq k - 2$. Hence $l_{N^*r}(P_k) \geq 2$ and $l_{N^*r^*}(P_k) \geq 2$. On the other hand, take $S' = \{v_1, v_2\}$. The set S' as well as \bar{S}' are not n -sets (since the edge v_1v_2 is not an edge of $\bigcup_{v \in \bar{S}'} \langle N[v] \rangle$). But S' is an r -set (and \bar{S}' is also an r -set), whenever $k \geq 4$ (since $|S'| = 2$ and $|\bar{S}'| \geq 2$ and by Remark 1.5). Hence $l_{N^*r}(P_k) \leq 2$ and $l_{N^*r^*}(P_k) \leq 2$. \square

Remark 2.2. If $k \leq 3$, for every subset S of $V(P_k)$, either S or \bar{S} is an n -set. Hence no N^* -set exists.

We end up this section with the following theorem, whose proof follows similar to the proof of Theorem 2.4.

Theorem 2.7. For any integer $k \geq 3$, $l_{N^*r}(P_k) = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$.

When $k = 1$, no r^* -set exists and when $k = 2$, no N -set exists. It is easy to see that the other sets like nR^* -set, n^*R^* -set, NR^* -set, and N^*R^* -set are not exists in any path due to the non-existence of R^* -sets. Finally, the non-existence of N^*R -set is due to the fact that if S is any such set, then its complement should contains exactly one vertex other than the end vertex to become an R -set implies that the set S is an n -set (so not an N^* -set).

3. nr -sets and Dimensions of a Cycle

We first restate the consequences of Theorem 1.6 as;

Lemma 3.1. Let $e = xy$ be an edge of a graph G such that e is not an edge of a triangle in G and S be an n -set of G . Then $x, y \in N[v]$ for some $v \in S$ if and only if $x = v$ or $y = v$.

Lemma 3.2. If S is an n -set of a graph G , then for each edge $e = xy$ there exists a vertex v in S such that both $x, y \in N[v]$.

Theorem 3.1. For each integer $i \geq 3$, every i -element subset S of vertices of a cycle C_k is always an r -set.

Proof. Let S be a subset of the vertices of C_k with cardinality at least 3. Let $a, b, c \in S$ and x, y be any two vertices of cycle C_k for $k \geq 3$. If possible, let $d(a, x) = d(a, y)$ and $d(b, x) = d(b, y)$. Then a and b lie in distinct xy -paths in C_k and C_k is an even cycle. In case if c lies between a and x , then $d(c, x) < d(c, y)$ and hence c resolves the pair x, y . Similarly, other cases follows by symmetry. \square

Remark 3.1. A set containing two adjacent vertices of a cycle C_k is always an r -set of C_k for each $k \geq 3$.

Theorem 3.2. For any integer $k \geq 3$, $l_{nr}(C_k) = \begin{cases} 3, & \text{for } k = 4, \\ \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Proof. In the case $k = 4$, it follows by Theorem 1.4 that $|S| \geq 2$. If $|S| = 2$, then S contains two adjacent vertices (else it is not an r -set). But then, $\langle V(C_4) - S \rangle$ contains an edge and hence by Theorem 1.6, C_k should contain a triangle, a contradiction. Hence every nr -set should have at least 3 elements. For the case $k \geq 5$, it is easy to see from Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 1.6 that the set $S = \{v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{2\lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil - 1}\}$ is an n -set and hence by Theorem 3.1, it follows that $l_{nr}(C_k) = |S| = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$. \square

Theorem 3.3. For any integer $k \geq 4$, $l_{N^*r}(C_k) = l_{N^*r^*}(C_k) = 2$

Proof. Let $e = xy$ be an edge of C_k and $S = \{x, y\}$. Then S is a resolving set for C_k . Now as $k \geq 4$, there is an edge $e_1 = uv$ not adjacent to e . So, by Lemma 3.2, S is not an n -set (Since C_k has no triangle and $u, v \notin S$). Hence S is an N^*r -set. Further as $\beta(C_k) = 2$, there are no singleton r -sets implies that the above set S is a minimal N^*r -set, $l_{N^*r}(C_k) = 2$. Also, \bar{S} contains at least 3 vertices if $k > 4$ and 2 adjacent vertices if $k = 4$. So, by Theorem 3.1 and Remark 3.1, \bar{S} is an r -set. Therefore, S is also an N^*r^* -set of minimum cardinality, so $l_{N^*r^*}(C_k) = 2$ for all $k \geq 4$. \square

Lemma 3.3. Let S be a minimal n -set of a graph G with $\Delta(G)=2$ and $H=\langle S \rangle$. Then $\Delta(H) < 2$.

Proof. If possible, let S be a minimal n -set of G and $\Delta(H) = 2$. Then there exists $a, b, c \in S$, Such that $ab, bc \in E(G)$. Consider the set $S' = S - \{b\}$. Since $\Delta(G) = 2$, we have $deg_G(b) = 2$ and hence b is adjacent to only a and c . Therefore, S' covers all the edges of G incident with b as well as other edges of G (Since other edges covered by S). This shows that S' is an n -set, a contradiction to the minimality of S . \square

Theorem 3.4. For any integer $k > 4$, $l_{Nr}(C_k) = l_{Nr^*}(C_k) = \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$. Also, $l_{Nr}(C_4) = 3$.

Proof. Let S be a minimal Nr -set of cycle C_k , $k > 4$. Then S is an n -set, therefore by Theorem 1.5, $|S| \geq \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ and by Lemma 3.3 the induced subgraph $\langle S \rangle$ has no two adjacent edges of G (i.e $deg_{\langle S \rangle}(v) \leq 1, \forall v \in S$). So, if k is even and $|S| = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$, then in the view of Lemma 3.2, we have, \bar{S} is an n -set, a contradiction to the fact that S is an N -set. Thus, $|S| \geq \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$ implies that $l_{Nr}(C_k) \geq \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$ and $l_{Nr^*}(C_k) \geq \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$. On the other hand, consider the set $S = \{v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{2\lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil - 3}\} \cup \{v_{k-1}\}$. The set S is an n -set with $|S| = \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$ and $|\bar{S}| = \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor < \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ and hence \bar{S} is not an n -set implies that S is an N -set. Finally, as $k > 4$, we have $|S| > 3$. Hence by Theorem 3.1, S is also an r -set. Thus, $l_{Nr}(C_k) \leq \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$. Further when $k = 5$, it is easy to see that \bar{S} contains an adjacent pair of vertices and when $k > 5$, the set \bar{S} has at least 3 vertices. Hence by Remark 3.1 and the 3.1, the set S is also an r^* -set. Hence it also follows that $l_{Nr^*}(C_k) \leq \lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil$. Lastly, the case $k = 4$ follows easily. \square

Remark 3.2. When $k = 3$, it is easy to see that for every nr -set S of C_3 , the set \bar{S} is also an n -set and no N -set exists.

Theorem 3.5. For any integer $k > 4$, $l_{nr^*}(C_k) = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$

Proof. Follows immediately by Theorem 1.4 and Theorem 3.1, as $l_{nr^*}(C_k) = l_n(C_k) = \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ for all $k > 4$. \square

Remark 3.3. Since $\beta(C_k) = 2$, every r -set of C_k should have at least 2 elements. Therefore, for the existence of an r^* set of a cycle C_k , k should be at least 5. Further when $k = 3$ or 4, it is easy to see that for every nr -set S of C_k we get $|\bar{S}| = 1$, and hence S is not an r^* -set.

Theorem 3.6. For any integer $k \geq 4$, $l_{NR}(C_k) = l_{nR}(C_k) = \begin{cases} k - 2, & \text{when } k \text{ is even and } k \neq 4, \\ k - 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Proof. Since $\beta(C_k) = 2$, any two vertices of C_k resolves C_k except the case k is even and the vertices are diagonally opposite. Therefore, for $k > 4$, every R -set S should have minimum of $k - 1$ vertices whenever k is odd and $k - 2$ if k is even. In either of the cases, the subgraph $\bigcup_{v \in S} N[v] \cong C_k$ for every R -set S and $\bigcup_{v \in \bar{S}} N[v] \neq C_k$ for $k \neq 4$ and hence S is an n -set as well as an N -set. When $k=4$, every N -set should have at least 3 elements and such a set S with $|S| = 3$ is always an R -set. \square

Theorem 3.7. For every integer $k \geq 3$, $l_{n^*r^*}(C_{2k}) = l_{n^*r}(C_{2k}) = k$.

Proof. Let S be an n^* -set. Then S and \bar{S} both are edge covering of C_{2k} . Since edge covering number of C_{2k} is k , $|S| = |\bar{S}| = k$. Also, both S and \bar{S} are r -sets (since $k \geq 3$). Finally, every maximal independent set S is an n^*r^* -set as well as n^*r -set. Hence the result. \square

Remark 3.4. For an odd cycle, no n^* -set exists as each n -set contains both end vertices of an edge (so \bar{S} is not an n -set, by Lemma 3.2).

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