

## Electronic Journal of Graph Theory and Applications

# On the domination and signed domination numbers of zero-divisor graph

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### Abstract

Let R be a commutative ring (with 1) and let Z(R) be its set of zero-divisors. The zero-divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  has vertex set  $Z^*(R) = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$  and for distinct  $x, y \in Z^*(R)$ , the vertices xand y are adjacent if and only if xy = 0. In this paper, we consider the domination number and signed domination number on zero-divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  of commutative ring R such that for every  $0 \neq x \in Z^*(R), x^2 \neq 0$ . We characterize  $\Gamma(R)$  whose  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) \in \{n + 1, n, n - 1\}$ , where  $|Z^*(R)| = n$ .

*Keywords:* domination number, signed domination number, zero-divisor graph Mathematics Subject Classification : 05C25, 05C50 DOI: 10.5614/ejgta.2016.4.2.3

#### 1. Introduction

The study on graphs from algebraic structures is an interesting subject for mathematician. In recent years, many algebraists as well as graph theorists have focused on the *zero-divisor* graph of rings. In [1], Anderson and Livingston introduced the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring R with identity, denoted by  $\Gamma(R)$ , as the graph with vertices  $Z^*(R) = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$ , the set of nonzero zero-divisors of R, and for distinct vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if xy = 0.

A *dominating set* for  $\Gamma$  is a subset D of V such that every vertex not in D is adjacent to at least

Received: 22 June 2014, Revised: 28 August 2016, Accepted: 4 September 2016.

one member of D. The *domination number* is the number of vertices in a smallest dominating set for  $\Gamma$  and denoted by  $\gamma(\Gamma)$ . Oystein Ore introduced the terms "dominating set" and " domination number" in [10] and has proved if  $\Gamma$  has n vertices and no isolated vertices, then  $\gamma(\Gamma) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . For a vertex  $v \in V(\Gamma)$ , the closed neighborhood N[v] of v is the set consisting of v and all of its neighbors. For a function  $g: V(\Gamma) \longrightarrow \{-1,1\}$  and a vertex  $v \in V$  we define g[v] = $\sum_{u \in N[v]} g(u)$ . A signed dominating function of  $\Gamma$  is a function  $g: V(\Gamma) \longrightarrow \{-1, 1\}$  such that g[v] > 0 for all  $v \in V(\Gamma)$ . The weight of a function g is  $\omega(g) = \sum_{v \in V(\Gamma)} g(v)$ . The signed domination number  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)$  is the minimum weight of a signed dominating function on  $\Gamma$ . A signed dominating function of weight  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)$  is called a  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)$ -function. This concept was defined in [3] and has been studied by several authors (see for instance [4, 7, 8, 13, 14]). For a graph  $\Gamma$  the set of all vertices of  $\Gamma$  is denoted by  $V(\Gamma)$ . If  $\Gamma$  is a graph, then the *complement* of  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\Gamma$  is a graph with vertex set  $V(\Gamma)$  in which two vertices are adjacent if and only if they are not adjacent in  $\Gamma$ . A graph is said to be *connected* if each pair of vertices are joined by a walk. The number of edges in a shortest walk joining  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  is called the *distance* between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  and denoted by  $d(v_i, v_j)$ . The maximum value of the distance function in a connected graph  $\Gamma$  is called the *diameter* of  $\Gamma$  and denoted by  $diam(\Gamma)$ . The complete graph  $K_n$  is the graph with n vertices in which each pair of vertices are adjacent. The *corona*  $\Gamma_1 \circ \Gamma_2$  is the graph formed by one copy of  $\Gamma_1$  and  $|V(\Gamma_1)|$  copies of  $\Gamma_2$  where the *i*th vertex of  $\Gamma_1$  is adjacent to every vertex in the *i*th copy of  $\Gamma_2$ .

In this work, we consider the domination and signed domination number on zero-divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  for commutative ring R. The main results are in the following.

**Theorem 1.1.**  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = n$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is isomorphic to  $K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_3 \circ K_1$ . **Theorem 1.2.** Let |R| be odd. Then  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = n - 2$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is a cycle  $C_4$ . **Theorem 1.3.**  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is a cycle  $C_4$  or a path  $P_3$ . **Theorem 1.4.**  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n - 1$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is isomorphic to a  $K_{1,3}$  or a  $K_3 \circ K_1$ .

#### 2. Preliminaries

First we give some facts that are needed in the next sections.

**Theorem 2.1.** [1] Let R be a commutative ring. Then  $\Gamma(R)$  is connected and  $diam(\Gamma(R)) \leq 3$ . Moreover, if  $\Gamma(R)$  contains a cycle, then  $girth(\Gamma(R)) \leq 7$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** [1] Let R be a finite commutative ring with  $|\Gamma(R)| \ge 4$ . Then  $\Gamma(R)$  is a star graph if and only if  $R = Z_2 \times F$  where F is a finite field. In particular, if  $\Gamma(R)$  is a star graph, then  $|\Gamma(R)| = p^n$  for some prime p and  $n \ge 0$ . Conversely, each star graph of order p can be realized as  $\Gamma(R)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** [10] If a graph  $\Gamma$  has n vertices and no isolated vertices, then  $\gamma(\Gamma) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** [9] For any graph  $\Gamma$  with *n* vertices:

$$\begin{split} &i. \ \gamma(\Gamma) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma}) \leq n+1. \\ &ii. \ \gamma(\Gamma)\gamma(\overline{\Gamma}) \leq n. \end{split}$$

**Theorem 2.5.** [11][5] For a graph  $\Gamma$  with even order n and no isolated vertices,  $\gamma(\Gamma) = \frac{n}{2}$  if and only if the components of  $\Gamma$  are the cycle  $C_4$  or the corona  $H \circ K_1$  where H is a connected graph.

**Lemma 2.1.** [8] Let  $\Gamma$  be a complete graph of order n, then

$$\gamma_s(\Gamma) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \text{ is odd.} \\ 2 & n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.6.** [8] Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph with n vertices, then

- *i*.  $\gamma_s(\Gamma) + \gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = 2n$  and  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = n^2$  if and only if  $\Gamma \in \{P_1, P_2, \overline{P}_2, P_3, \overline{P}_3, P_4\}$ , where  $P_i$  is a path on i vertices.
- ii.  $\gamma_s(\Gamma) + \gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = 2n 2$  and  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = n^2 2n$  for exactly 12 graph in Figure 1.



Figure 1.  $\gamma_s(\Gamma) + \gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = 2n - 2$  and  $\gamma_s(\Gamma)\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma}) = n^2 - 2n$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** [8] A graph  $\Gamma$  has  $\gamma_s(\Gamma) = n$  if and only if every  $v \in \Gamma$  is either isolated, an endvertex or adjacent to an endvertex.

#### 3. Signed domination number on zero-divisor graph

Throughout this paper, R is a commutative ring such that  $|Z^*(R)| = n$  and for every non-zero element  $x, x^2 \neq 0$ . Also  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  denotes the complement graph of the zero-divisor graph on R.

**Lemma 3.1.** The cycle  $C_n$  is a zero-divisor graph of a ring if and only if n = 4.

**Proof.** Let  $\Gamma(R)$  be the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring R. Since  $girth(\Gamma(R)) \leq 7$ , then  $n \leq 7$ . On the contrary, let  $\Gamma(R) \simeq C_n$  and  $n \geq 5$  or n = 3. If  $n \geq 5$ , then  $a_1 - a_2 - \ldots - a_n - a_1$ . So  $a_1 + a_3 \in ann(a_2) = \{0, a_1, a_3\}$  and so  $a_1 + a_3 = 0$ . Thus  $a_4a_1 = 0$ . This is impossible. Let  $\Gamma(R)$  be  $K_3$ . Then  $Z(R) = \{0, a, b, c\}$ . So  $ann(a) = \{0, b, c\}$  and  $ann(b) = \{0, a, c\}$ . Thus b = -c = a. This is a contradiction. Conversely, the zero divisor graph of ring  $Z_3 \times Z_3$  is a cycle  $C_4$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** Let  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = n$ . Since  $\Gamma(R)$  is a connected graph, by Lemma 2.2, every vertex is an endvertex or adjacent to an end-vertex. If  $x \in Z^*(R)$  and deg(x) = 1, then  $ann(x) = \{0, y\}$  where xy = 0. So O(y) = 2 in group (R, +). Hence |R| has even order. Let  $A = \{a; deg(a) > 1\}$ . Since  $diam(\Gamma(R)) \leq 3$ , the induced subgraph on A is a complete graph. Consider four cases:

Case 1. If |A| = 1, then  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_{1,n-1}$ .

- Case 2. Let  $A = \{a, b\}$ . Then  $ann(a) \cap ann(b) = \{0\}$ . Suppose that  $u \in ann(a)$  and  $v \in ann(b)$ . Since deg(a), deg(b) > 1, then deg(u) = deg(v) = 1 and also uva = uvb = 0. Hence,  $uv \in ann(a) \cap ann(b)$  and so uv = 0. This is a contradiction by deg(u) = deg(v) = 1.
- Case 3. Let  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ . Let E(a) be the set of endvertex adjacent to a. Since  $b, c \in ann(a)$  and O(a) = O(b) = 2, ann(a) is a subgroup of (R, +) of even order. Hence |E(a)| is odd. The same conclusion can be drawn for b, c. We claim that |E(a)| = 1. On the contrary, suppose that  $|E(a)| \ge 3$ . There is no loos of generality in assuming  $E(a) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ . So  $ann(a) = \{0, b, c, x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ . Hence  $x_1 = -x_3$  and  $O(x_2) = 2$  or  $O(x_i) = 2$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . In the both cases,  $x_1 + x_2, x_2 + x_3 \ne 0$ . Let  $y \in E(b)$ . Then  $x_1ya = x_1yb = 0$ . So  $x_1y \in ann(a) \cap ann(b) = \{0, c\}$ . Since deg(y) = 1,  $x_1y = c$ . In the same manner we can see that  $x_2y = x_3y = c$ . Hence  $y(x_1 + x_2) = y(x_2 + x_3) = 2c = 0$ . Thus  $x_1 + x_2, x_2 + x_3 \in ann(y) = \{0, b\}$ . So  $x_1 + x_2 = x_2 + x_3 = b$  and so  $x_1 = x_3$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore |E(a)| = |E(b)| = |E(c)| = 1 and  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_3 \circ K_1$ .
- Case 4. Let  $A = \{a_1, \ldots, a_t\}$  and t > 3. Then  $ann(a_i) = \{0, a_1, \ldots, \hat{a}_i, \ldots, a_t\} \cup E(a_i)$  for  $i \in \{1, \ldots, t\}$ . So  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{t-2} ann(a_i) = \{0, a_{t-1}, a_t\}$ . Hence  $a_{t-1} = -a_t$ . Since  $N(a_{t-1}) \neq N(a_t)$ , this is impossible.

**Corollary 3.1.** If  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = n$ , then  $\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) \in \{0, 3\}$ .



Figure 2.  $\overline{K_3 \circ K_1}$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 1.1,  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_3 \circ K_1$ . If  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_{1,n-1}$ , then  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is  $K_1 \cup K_{n-1}$ . Since |Z(R)| is even, then n is odd and so  $\gamma_s(K_{n-1}) = 2$  and  $\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 3$ . If  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_3 \circ K_1$ , then  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is the graph in Figure 2. Let  $V_1 = \{x, y, z\}$  and  $V_2 = \{a, b, c\}$ . Define  $f : V(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) \longrightarrow \{-1, +1\}$  such that

$$f(u) = \begin{cases} -1 & u \in V_1; \\ +1 & u \in V_2. \end{cases}$$

It is clear that f is a signed dominating function and  $\omega(f) = 0$ . If g is a function such that  $\omega(g) < 0$ , then g is not a signed dominating function. Therefore  $\gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 0$ .

**Corollary 3.2.** If  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = n$ , then  $|R| \in \{2^k, 2p^k\}$  where p is prime.

**Proof.** By Theorem 1.1,  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_3 \circ K_1$ . If  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_{1,n-1}$ , then by Theorem 2.2,  $R \simeq Z_2 \times F$  where F is a finite field. So  $|R| = 2p^k$ . Let  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_3 \circ K_1$ . Let  $V(\Gamma(R)) = \{a_i, x_i; deg(x_i) = 1, deg(a_i) = 3, 1 \le i \le 3\}$ . So |R| is even. If  $p \mid |R|$  (p is odd prime number), then there is  $0 \ne r \in R$  such that O(r) = p. Hence pr = 0. Also  $(p-1)a_i = 0$ . Thus  $ra_i = r(pa_i) = 0$ . So  $r \in ann(a_i)$  for every  $1 \le i \le 3$ . Hence r = 0. This is a contradiction. Therefore  $|R| = 2^k$ .

The Proof of Theorem 1.2 Since |R| is odd,  $\delta \ge 2$ . Let  $x \in R$  and deg(x) = 2k + 1. Then |ann(x)| = 2k + 2. This is a contradiction by |R| is odd. So all vertices have even degree. Since  $diam(\Gamma(R)) \le 3$ , there are three cases:

- Case 1. If  $diam(\Gamma(R)) = 1$ , then  $\Gamma(R)$  is complete graph  $K_n$ . Since all vertices have even degree, n is odd and so  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) = 1$ . Hence n = 3 and  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_3$ . This is impossible by Lemma 3.1.
- Case 2. If  $diam(\gamma(R)) = 3$ , then there are  $a, b \in Z^*(R)$  such that d(a, b) = 3. Define signed dominating function  $f: V(\Gamma(R)) \longrightarrow \{-1, +1\}$  such that f(a) = f(b) = -1 and f(x) = 1 for  $x \in Z^*(R) \setminus \{a, b\}$ . Thus  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) < n 2$ . This is impossible.

Case 3. Let  $diam(\Gamma(R)) = 2$ . If  $\Delta = 2$ , then  $\Gamma(R)$  is a cycle. So  $\Gamma(R) \simeq C_4$ , by Theorem 3.1. Let  $deg(y) = \Delta \ge 4$ . Let  $ann(y) = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_t\}$  where t is even and  $t \ge 4$ . So  $O(a_i) \ne 2$ . Hence,  $-a_i \in ann(y)$ . Thus  $ann(y) = \{0, a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_{\frac{t}{2}}, -a_{\frac{t}{2}}\}$ . Let  $x \in N(a_1)$ . If there is  $2 \le j \le \frac{t}{2}$  such that  $\{a_1, a_j\} \notin E(\Gamma(R))$ , then  $d(x, a_j) > 2$ . Otherwise, there is  $z \in N(a_j) \setminus ann(y)$  and so d(x, z) = 3. This is not true. So for every  $x \in N(a_1)$ ,  $deg(x) \ge 4$ . Define  $f : V(\Gamma(R)) \longrightarrow \{-1, +1\}$  such that  $f(a_1) = f(-a_1) = -1$  and f(v) = 1 for every  $v \in V(\Gamma(R)) \setminus \{a_1, -a_1\}$ . So f is a signed dominating function and so  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) < n - 2$ . This is a contradiction.

**Theorem 3.1.** If  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 2n$ , then  $|R| \in \{2^k, 2 \times 3^k\}$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\Gamma(R)$  is a connected graph, by Theorem 2.6,  $\Gamma(R)$  is one of the paths in  $\{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$ . It is known  $P_4$  is not a zero-divisor graph.

If  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $P_1$ , then  $Z(R) = \{0, x\}$ . So  $x^2 = 0$ . This is impossible.

Let  $\Gamma(R)$  be  $P_2$ . Then  $Z(R) = \{0, a, b\}$  and O(a) = O(b) = 2. So |R| is even. If  $p \mid |R|$  where p is an odd prime number, then there is  $r \in R$  such that O(r) = p. Hence (p-1)a = 0. Thus ra = r(pa) = 0. So  $r \in ann(a)$  and so r = b. This is a contradiction. If  $\Gamma(R)$  is a - c - b, then  $ann(c) = \{0, a, b\}$ . So b = -a and so O(a) = 3. Also O(c) = 2. Also by Theorem 2.2,  $R \simeq Z_2 \times F$ . So  $|R| = 2 \times 3^k$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** If  $\gamma_s(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma_s(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 2n - 2$ , then  $|R| = 2p^k$  where p is an odd prime.

**Proof.** By Theorem 2.6 and Lemma 3.1 and since  $\Gamma(R)$  is a connected graph,  $\Gamma(R) \in \{K_{1,3}, K_{1,4}, G_1, G_2\}$  where  $G_1, G_2$  are two graphs in Figure 3. We show that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are not a zero-divisor graph. If  $G_1$  is a zero-divisor graph, then b(a + e) = 0. So  $a + e \in ann(b) = \{0, a, e\}$ . Hence e = -a. This is contradiction by  $c, d \notin ann(a)$ . Similar argument applies for  $G_2$ . If  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_{1,3}$  or  $K_{1,4}$ , then likewise Corollary 3.2,  $|R| = 2p^k$ .



Figure 3.  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  in Theorem 3.2.

#### 4. Domination number on zero-divisor graph

**Theorem 4.1.**  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = \frac{n}{2}$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is a cycle  $C_4$  or a  $K_3 \circ K_1$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = \frac{n}{2}$ . By Theorem 2.5,  $\Gamma(R)$  is the a cycle  $C_4$  or the corona  $H \circ K_1$  where H is a connected graph. If  $\Gamma(R)$  is not  $C_4$ , then  $\Gamma(R) \simeq H \circ K_1$ . Let  $A = \{a_i; deg(a_i) > 1\}$ . Since  $diam(\Gamma(R)) \leq 3$ , the induced subgraph on A is complete. If |A| = 2, then  $\Gamma(R)$  is a path  $P_4$ . This is impossible. If |A| > 3, then  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{t-2} ann(a_i) = \{0, a_{t-1}, a_t\}$ . Hence  $a_t = -a_{t-1}$ . This is a contradiction. So |A| = 3 and so  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_3 \circ K_1$ . The converse is clear.

**Theorem 4.2.**  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n + 1$  if and only if  $\Gamma(R)$  is complete graph  $K_n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n + 1$ . By Theorem 2.3,  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . So  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) > \frac{n}{2}$  and so  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  has isolated vertex. Hence  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  and  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n$ . Thus all vertices of  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  are isolated. Therefore  $\Gamma(R) \simeq K_n$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1.3.** Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n$ . Since  $\Gamma(R)$  is a connected graph,  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . We consider following cases:

Case 1. Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = \frac{n}{2}$ . By Theorem 4.1 and above equality,  $\Gamma(R)$  is a  $C_4$ .

Case 2. If  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) < \frac{n}{2}$ , then  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) > \frac{n}{2}$ . So  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  has an isolated vertex and so  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$ . Also  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n - 1$ . Thus  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is  $P_2 \cup (n - 2)K_1$ . It is clear that  $n \ge 3$ .

Sub case I. If n > 3, then likewise the proof of Theorem 4.1, the contradiction reaches.

Sub case II. If n = 3, then  $\overline{\Gamma(R)} \simeq P_2 \cup K_1$ . So  $\Gamma(R)$  is the path  $P_3$ .

The converse is easy.

**Proof of Theorem 1.4.** Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n - 1$ . Since  $\Gamma(R)$  has no isolated vertices,  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . There are three cases:

Case 1. If  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = \frac{n}{2}$ , then  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_3 \circ K_1$  or  $C_4$  by Theorem 4.1. But  $K_3 \circ K_1$  is not satisfied in  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) + \gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n - 1$ .

Case 2. Let  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = \frac{n}{2} - 1$ . Then  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \frac{n}{2}$ . By Theorem 2.4,  $0 \le n \le 6$ . So  $n \in \{4, 6\}$ .

- Sub case I. Let n = 4. Then  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  and  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 2$ . So  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $K_{1,3}$  or G in Figure 4. Let G be a zero-divisor graph. Since deg(a) = 1, O(b) = 2. On the other hand,  $ann(c) = \{0, b, d\}$ . So d = -b. This is not true.
- Sub case II. If n = 6, then  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 2$  and  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 3$ . So  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is a graph without isolated vertex. Hence by Theorem 2.5,  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is  $C_4 \cup P_2, 3P_2$  or  $K_3 \circ K_1$ . So  $\Gamma(R)$  is  $G_1, G_2$ and  $G_3$  in Figure 4, respectively. In graph  $G_1, c(d + e) = 0$  and so  $d + e \in ann(c)$ . Hence d + e = 0 or f. Thus ad = 0 or bd = 0. This is a contradiction. In graph  $G_2, d + f \in ann(a)$ . But all cases are impossible. In graph  $G_3$ , Since b(d + f) = 0, d = -f. So cf = 0. This is not true.

Case 3. If  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) < \frac{n}{2} - 1$ , then  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  has an isolated vertex. So  $\gamma(\Gamma(R)) = 1$  and so  $\gamma(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = n - 2$ . Hence  $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$  is  $P_3 \cup (n - 3)K_1$  or  $K_3 \cup (n - 3)K_1$ . If n = 4, then  $\Gamma(R)$  is G in Figure 4 or  $K_{1,3}$  respectively. But G is not a zero-divisor graph of a ring. For n > 4, the contradiction reached by the same method in Theorem 4.1.



Figure 4.  $\Gamma(R)$  in the proof of Theorem 1.4, Cases 2 and 3.

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