

Some Properties of Graphs having Induced nK_2 Decomposition

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Abstract

A decomposition of a graph $G(p, q)$ is a collection of subgraphs H_1, H_2, \dots, H_t of G such that every edge of G belongs to exactly one H_i , for some positive integer t . If each H_i is isomorphic to induced nH , we say that G has induced nH subgraph decomposition. In this paper we initiate a study on induced nH subgraph decomposition, where H is apparently K_2 . The bounds for n and the edge-partition number $\pi'_\nu(G)$ is attained which helps to estimate an upper bound for the clique number of a graph G having nK_2 induced subgraph decomposition.

AMS Subject Classification: 05C15, 05C07, 05C42, 05C69

Key Words and Phrases: nK_2 , Induced Subgraph Decomposition, radius and diameter of the graph, edge partition number, the clique number.

1 Introduction

A. Bialostocki and Y. Roditty introduced $3K_2$ decomposition of a graph in 1982[1]. Although knotty, it is more appealing to conceptualise induced nK_2 subgraph decomposition. Investigation of some inferred ideas from this concept yields powerful results which are devoted to analyse social network, drug prescription and scheduling problems.

By a graph, we refer to a simple graph which is a finite, undirected, non-trivial, connected graph without any multiple edges and loops. The order and size of the graph are denoted by p and q respectively. As in [2], a subgraph H of a graph G is called an *induced subgraph* of G if whenever u and v are vertices of H and uv is an edge of G , then uv is an edge of H as well. If S is a nonempty set of

vertices of a graph G , then the *subgraph of G induced by S* is the induced subgraph with vertex set S . This induced subgraph is denoted by $\langle S \rangle$. A *decomposition* of a graph G is a collection of edge-disjoint subgraphs H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n of G such that every edge of G belongs to exactly one H_i . If each $H_i \cong H$, then we say that G has a *H -decomposition* and is denoted by $H|G$. If each H_i is an induced subgraph forming ' n ' copies of K_2 in G , then we say that, there exist an *nK_2 induced subgraph decomposition of G* .

We see in [2] that if u and v are vertices of a graph G , then the *distance between u and v* is the length of any shortest $u - v$ path in G and is denoted by $d(u, v)$. We can see in [4] that *eccentricity of a vertex u* is the supremum of distances between u and vertices of G . The maximum [minimum] eccentricity of a vertex of G will be called the *diameter* [radius] of the graph G and denoted by $diam(G)$ [$rad(G)$]. A graph G is *complete*, if every two distinct vertices of G are adjacent.[4] A complete graph of order r is denoted by K_r . A *clique* in a graph G is a complete subgraph of G . The order of the largest clique in a graph G is its *clique number*, which is denoted by $\omega(G)$.

As seen in [5] if G is a connected graph and $e_1 = (u_1, v_1), e_2 = (u_2, v_2)$ are two edges of G , then the *distance between edges or edge distance* of e_1 and e_2 is defined as $ed(e_1, e_2) = \min\{d(u_1, u_2), d(u_1, v_2), d(v_1, u_2), d(v_1, v_2)\}$. If $ed(e_1, e_2) = 0$, then these edges are called *neighbor edges*. In a similar fashion we define the distance between two subgraphs H_1 and H_2 of G as $d(H_1, H_2) = \min\{d(u, v) | u \in V(H_1), v \in V(H_2)\}$. Thereby we can have induced nH subgraph decomposition if the distance between the subgraphs under each subset of decomposition is at least two. Due to inducedness we observe that for nK_2 induced subgraph decomposition of G , distinct K_2 's in each H_i are of edge distance at least two in G .

2 Graphs with property $\mathcal{P}_n(H)$

For some positive integer $n \geq 2$, we say that a graph $G(p, q)$ has property $\mathcal{P}_n(H)$, similar to the one in [6], if G has induced nH subgraph decomposition, for some subgraph H of G . We see that, for every connected graph G , Since $G \subseteq G$, G has the property $\mathcal{P}_1(G)$ which is G itself. In this paper we initiate a study on the property $\mathcal{P}_n(H)$, where H is apparently K_2 . Obviously, every graph of positive size has the property $\mathcal{P}_1(K_2)$. That is, if G is a graph of size $q > 0$, then G has K_2 decomposition with q number of subgraphs. Hence, it is worth further to consider only the case $n \geq 2$. Reiterating, for any positive integer $n \geq 2$, we say that a graph $G(p, q)$ has property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ if G has induced nK_2 Subgraph Decomposition.

The following observations readily follows from the afore mentioned definition.

Observation 1. *If G is disconnected with ' n ' components each of size ' t ', then G has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, with t copies of nK_2 . For example, if G is disconnected with two components, each being P_3 , then G has the property $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$ with two subgraphs as $2K_2$. Similarly, if G is disconnected with three components each being C_4, P_5 and $K_{1,4}$, then, G has the property $\mathcal{P}_3(K_2)$ with four subgraphs under decomposition. Also, if G has one more component $T_{3,1}$, then G has the property $\mathcal{P}_4(K_2)$ with four subgraphs under decomposition.*

Theorem 1. Suppose $G(p, q)$ is disconnected with two components $G_1(p_1, q_1)$ and $G_2(p_2, q_2)$ having the property $\mathcal{P}_{n_1}(K_2)$ and $\mathcal{P}_{n_2}(K_2)$ respectively. Then, G has the property $\mathcal{P}_{n_1+n_2}(K_2)$ only if both the components have equal number of subgraphs under decomposition.

Proof. Suppose that the components $G_1(p_1, q_1)$ has $\mathcal{P}_{n_1}(K_2)$ with t_1 number of subgraphs and $G_2(p_2, q_2)$ has $\mathcal{P}_{n_2}(K_2)$ with t_2 number of subgraphs. Then,

$$q_1 = n_1 \cdot t_1 \quad \text{and} \quad q_2 = n_2 \cdot t_2 \tag{1}$$

Suppose G has $\mathcal{P}_{n_1+n_2}(K_2)$. Then by (1), $q = (n_1 + n_2)(t)$ and hence $q_1 + q_2 = (n_1 + n_2)(t)$. This implies $n_1 t_1 + n_2 t_2 = n_1 t + n_2 t$ and we have, $t_1 = t = t_2$. That is, both the components have equal number of subgraphs under decomposition. \square

It is easy to see that C_6 is the smallest connected graph with respect to order that has the property $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$. This in turn provides an important insight about the radius of the graph holding the property $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$. which has to be greater or equal to 3. That is, if G is any connected graph having the property $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$, then, $rad(G) \geq 3$. That is, a graph of radius 1 or 2 will not have $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$. When radius of the graph is equal to 1, at least one vertex is adjacent to every other vertices. That is, a graph G of radius one has $\Delta(G) = p - 1$. Hence, there exists not even a single $2K_2$. When radius of the graph is equal to 2, the longest induced path is P_5 and obviously, P_5 having size 4 has only one induced $2K_2$. Hence, the graphs with radius 1 or 2 will not have an induced $2K_2$ decomposition. Thus we conclude that if G has $\mathcal{P}_2(K_2)$, then $rad(G) \geq 3$. As far as induced nK_2 decomposition is concerned, the following graphs are forbidden.

Observation 2. (Some known graphs which are forbidden)

- (i) $K_p, W_p, K_{1,p}, \dots$ as their radius = $1 < 3$.
- (ii) $K_{r,s},$ Petersen Graph, Bull graph, P_4, C_4, \dots as radius = $2 < 3$.
- (iii) Any connected graph G having at least one vertex of degree $(p - 1)$ or maximum degree $(p - 1)$ as radius = 1.
- (iv) Any connected graph G having maximum degree $(p - 2)$ as its radius is 2.

Observation 3. If G is any connected graph with a vertex of maximum degree Δ having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we see that Δ has a crucial role in this decomposition as these $(2\Delta - 1)$ edges must lie in different subgraphs. Therefore, if G is any connected graph having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then the minimum number of subgraphs is at least 3 as $(2\Delta - 1) \geq 3$. Also, $q \geq n(2\Delta - 1) \Rightarrow q \geq 3n \Rightarrow q \geq 6$ as $n \geq 2$.

Observation 4. Suppose G is any connected graph with a vertex of maximum degree Δ having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then, $q = n \cdot t$, where 't' is the number of subgraphs under decomposition. We have observed that $q \geq n(2\Delta - 1)$. So by Hand Shaking Lemma we have, $2q \geq 2 \cdot n(2\Delta - 1) \Rightarrow \sum_1^p d(v) \geq 2 \cdot n \cdot (2\Delta - 1) \Rightarrow p \cdot \Delta \geq 2 \cdot n \cdot (2\Delta - 1) \Rightarrow p \geq \frac{2 \cdot n \cdot (2\Delta - 1)}{\Delta} \Rightarrow p \geq 3n \Rightarrow p \geq 6$.

3 The Edge-partition number of a Graph

Given a connected graph G and a positive integer ' n ', we can determine the largest n and correspondingly the fewest number of subgraphs into which G can be decomposed so that each subgraph is according to the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ of G . This decomposition is analogous to edge-partitioning of G , provided each subgraph is obtained by the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ of G . Hence, we determine the *edge-partition number* $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ as the minimum number of subsets into which the edge set of G can be partitioned so that the subgraph induced by each subset is nK_2 as defined in II. With respect to each n there exists $\pi_n'(G)$, which is the number of subsets into which the edge set of G is partitioned with regard to $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. We call $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ as the *edge-partition number of G* only if n attains its maximum value ν . As seen in observation(3), $\pi_{\nu}'(G) \geq 3$.

We have observed that if G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then $rad(G) \geq 3$ and so G has at least two subgraphs of diameter 3. For the betterment of extracting the edge-partition number, let us consider all the possible subgraphs of diameter 3 in G . Let $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ be the maximum among the size of all such subgraphs. Each of these $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ number of edges has to be placed in different copies as they are at edge distance less than 2. Hence, $E(G)$ can be partitioned into at least $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ number of subsets. Let Δ' be the maximum degree of the diameter 3 subgraph of size $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$.

We see that this Δ' too has a crucial role in this decomposition and $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ completely depends on Δ' where $2 \leq \Delta' \leq \Delta$. We now establish a result for a tree which yields the upper bound for n in $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ with respect to $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ for a graph G .

4 Bounds for n and $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ of a Graph satisfying $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$

As discussed earlier, we see that $n \geq 2$ for a graph G having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Hence, we now obtain the upper bound for n and the edge partition number through the following proposition and theorems.

Proposition 1. *Suppose the graph G having $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ under consideration is a tree. Then, the edge partition number $\pi_{\nu}'(G) = 2\Delta - (i + j + 1)$ where $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $j = i, i + 2, i + 3, \dots$. Also, $2 \leq n \leq \frac{\Delta}{\pi_{\nu}'(G)}$.*

Proof. As G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we see that G contains atleast two subgraphs of diameter 3, one of them having maximum size $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$. Since G is a tree, $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ completely depends on the number of edges adjacent to a vertex of maximum degree and one of its neighbor in the diameter 3 subgraph. We now calculate $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ in the following manner.

For $k \in N$ let H_k be a maximal subgraph of diameter 3 and u be a vertex of maximum degree in H . As G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, u has at least one adjacent vertex say, v , which is not a pendant vertex. For $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \Delta - 2$, if

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(u) &= \Delta - i; \text{ for some } i \\
 d(v) &= \Delta - j; \text{ for some } j \text{ where } j = i, i + 1, \dots \\
 \text{then, set } x_{ij} &= 2\Delta - (i + j + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Where x_{ij} is the size of a diameter 3 subgraph in G . Consider the edge partition number of G as $\pi'_\nu(G) = \max\{x_{ij}\}$. Clearly, the subgraph H_k , for some k , formed by u, v and its neighbors is of diameter 3 with maximum size $\pi'_\nu(G)$ and maximum degree $d(u) = \Delta' = \Delta - i$.

Since G has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we see that $q = \nu(\pi'_\nu(G))$ where, ν is the largest value of n . Hence, we obtain the bound for n as $2 \leq n \leq \frac{q}{\pi'_\nu(G)}$, where $\pi'_\nu(G) = \max\{x_{ij}\}$. □

Corollary 1. *The path graph P_k satisfies the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ iff $k = n \cdot \pi'_n(P_k) + 1$ where $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$ and $\pi'_n(P_k) \geq 3$.*

Proof. Suppose that P_k has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Then, by the previous proposition we see that $d(u) = \Delta' = \Delta = 2$ and $\pi'_\nu(P_k) = 2\Delta - 1 = 3$ or $\pi'_n(P_k) \geq 3$. Hence, $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{q}{2\Delta-1} \rfloor = \lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$. Since P_k has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we have $k - 1 = \nu(\pi'_\nu(P_k))$ or $k = \nu(\pi'_\nu(P_k)) + 1$. In general, $k = n \cdot (\pi'_n(P_k)) + 1$ where, $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$ Conversely, consider the path graph P_k such that $k = n \cdot \pi'_n(P_k) + 1$ where $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$. From the bounds for n , we have $k \geq 3n + 1 \Rightarrow k - 1 \geq 6 \Rightarrow \text{rad}(P_k) \geq 3$. P_k has at least 6 edges and radius at least 3 implies that P_k has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ for $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$. □

Corollary 2. *A cycle C_k has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ iff $k = n \cdot \Pi'_n(k)$ where $2 \leq n \leq \lfloor \frac{k}{3} \rfloor$.*

Proof. The proof is similar to that of corollary 1. □

Remark 1. *The largest value of n in P_k and C_k are $\lfloor \frac{k-1}{3} \rfloor$ and $\lfloor \frac{k}{3} \rfloor$ respectively. However, the Edge-partition number of a path graph and that of a cycle is, $\pi'_\nu(P_k) = \pi'_\nu(C_k) = 3$.*

Theorem 2. *If the acyclic graph $T(p, q)$ has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then*

- (i) $n \mid q$ such that $2 \leq n \leq \frac{q}{\pi'_\nu(T)}$.
- (ii) $\text{diam}(G) \geq 3 + (n - 1)[\pi'_\nu(T) - \Delta' + 2]$.

Proof. As $T(p, q)$ is acyclic having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, by proposition(1), condition (i) is proved.

Now to prove condition(ii). Let $u, v \in V(T)$ are two adjacent vertices in T such that $\text{deg}(u) + \text{deg}(v)$ is maximum and $\pi'_\nu(T)$ be the edge partition number of $T(V, E)$. Consider $V'(T) = N_{[u,v]}$. Let $H(V', E')$ be the subgraph of diameter 3 induced by V' with maximum degree $d(u) = \Delta'$ and $|E'| = \pi'_\nu(T)$. Clearly, $V'(T) \subset V(T)$ and H is not a spanning subgraph of $T(V, E)$. Hence, $d(T) \geq d(H)$. To have nK_2 decomposition in T , $d(H)$ is increased by $(n - 1)$ for $(\Delta' - 1)$ edges adjacent to u of H and for the remaining $[\pi'_\nu - (\Delta' - 1)]$ edges, the diameter is

increased $(n - 1)$ times. Hence we have,

$$\begin{aligned} d(T) &> d(H) \\ d(T) &\geq d(H) + (n - 1) + (n - 1)[\pi_{\nu}' - (\Delta' - 1)] \\ &\geq d(H) + (n - 1)[\pi_{\nu}' - \Delta' + 2] \\ &\geq 3 + (n - 1)[\pi_{\nu}' - \Delta' + 2] \end{aligned}$$

□

Observation 5. From various examples, we have seen that if a graph $G(p, q)$ has the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then the Density of the graph $D = \frac{2q}{p(p-1)} < 0.3$. The Density measures how many edges are in the edge set E compared to maximum possible number of edges between vertices in set V . [7] Obviously, as the density approaches 1, q approaches $\frac{p(p-1)}{2}$ which is a forbidden case of $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Hence it can be inferred that when the density $D \geq 0.3$, the possibility of G having $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ reduces. The average degree of a graph G , $\frac{2q}{p}$ is another measure of how many edges are in set E compared to number of vertices in the set V . [7] Hence we can conclude that if G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then the average degree is less than $0.3(p - 1)$.

Theorem 3. If the graph $G(p, q)$ is not acyclic, having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, where both p and q are at least six and the average degree is less than $0.3(p - 1)$, then

- (i) $n \mid q$ such that $2 \leq n \leq \frac{q}{\pi_{\nu}'(G)}$
- (ii) $rad(G) \geq \lfloor \frac{3n}{2} \rfloor$.

Proof. Consider a graph $G(p, q)$ having property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Then G has nK_2 induced subgraph decomposition. First we prove condition (i). Each subgraph $H_i \approx nK_2 \Rightarrow n \mid q$. Obviously, $n \geq 2$. Since G is not acyclic, G will have at least one of the graphs under case(1), (2) and (3) as a proper subgraph. If G itself is a cycle, then by corollary 2, condition(i) is proved. Else we extract the edge partition number, $\pi_{\nu}'(G)$ from certain maximal subgraphs of diameter 3 in the following manner.

Case 1: Suppose G contains a cycle C_m as a proper subgraph. Let $u_i \in V(G)$ lie on a cycle C_m such that $d(u_i) = d(u) = \Delta'$, for some i and $\Delta' = \Delta, \Delta - 1, \Delta - 2, \dots, 3$. Let $w \in V(G)$ such that $d(w)$ is maximum $\forall w \in N(u)$.

By assuming $s = \sum_{i=1}^m d(u_i)$, consider

$$x_{im} = \begin{cases} s - m & ; m = 3 \\ d(u) + d(w) & ; 3 < m < 6 \\ d(u) + d(w) - 1 & ; m \geq 6 \end{cases}$$

Case 2: Let $u_i \in V(G)$ lie on a complete graph K_r such that $d(u_i) = d(u) = \Delta$ for some i and $\Delta' = \Delta, \Delta - 1, \Delta - 2, \dots, 3$. Then,

$$x_{ir} = \frac{2s - r^2 + r}{2}$$

where $s = \sum_{i=1}^m d(u_i)$.

Case 3: Let $u \in V(G)$ lie on a Wheel graph $W_{1,k}$; $k \geq 3$ such that $d(u) = \Delta$ for some i and $\Delta' = \Delta, \Delta - 1, \Delta - 2, \dots, 3$. Then

$$x_{ik} = \begin{cases} s - k & ; k \leq 5 \\ \Delta' + 3 & ; k \geq 6 \end{cases}$$

where $s = \sum_{i=1}^m d(u_i)$. Then $\pi'_\nu(G) = \max\{x_{im}, x_{ir}, x_{ik}\}$ is the required edge partition number. As G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we see that $q \geq n\pi'_\nu(G) \Rightarrow n \leq \frac{q}{\pi'_\nu(G)}$. Hence, condition (i) is proved.

We now prove condition (ii). Let H be the diameter 3 induced subgraph of G with u having the maximum degree Δ' such that $|E(H)| = \pi'_\nu(G)$. As G has $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, we see that G must have the property $\mathcal{P}_\nu(K_2)$ or νK_2 induced decomposition by condition (i). By the inducedness, only one edge or K_2 can be selected from H to be placed under a subset of decomposition. So to have νK_2 decomposition, ν copies of K_2 cannot be extracted unless we have ν number of edge disjoint diameter 3 subgraphs. That is,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{diam}(G) &\geq 3\nu \\ \Rightarrow \text{rad}(G) &\geq \lfloor \frac{3\nu}{2} \rfloor \end{aligned}$$

In general,

$$\text{rad}(G) \geq \lfloor \frac{3n}{2} \rfloor$$

□

5 The Clique Problem

If G is a graph with property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$, then we can estimate a bound for the clique number, $\omega(G)$. So, we can determine the maximum clique possible in G . In social networks cliques represent group of people who know each other. Hence it is fascinating indeed to retrieve the strength of an organisation or community in a particular area.

Theorem 4. Suppose G is a graph having the property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Then the clique number $\omega(G) < \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 8\pi'_\nu(G)}}{2}$.

Proof. Suppose G has property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$. Then, by the theorem 2, there exist induced nK_2 decomposition of G where, $2 \leq n \leq \frac{q}{\pi'_\nu(G)}$. We see that, $\nu = \frac{q}{\pi'_\nu(G)}$ is the largest value of n and $\pi'_\nu(G)$ is the edge-partition number of G . Let K_r be a clique in G . Clearly, $G \neq K_r$; for $\text{rad}(G) = 1$ contradicts the existence of property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ in G . Hence, $K_r \subset G$. Then the maximal subgraph H'' induced by $V[K_r]$ and its neighbors has diameter 3. However, the size of H'' must be less than or equal to $\pi'_\nu(G)$ as $\pi'_\nu(G)$ is the maximum among the size of subgraphs having diameter

3. Clearly, $K_r \subset H''$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} |E(K_r)| &< |E(H'')| \leq \pi'_\nu(G) \\ \binom{r}{2} &< \pi'_\nu(G) \\ r &< \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 8\pi'_\nu(G)}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

That is, $\omega(G) < \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 8\pi'_\nu(G)}}{2}$. □

Conclusion

The key condition that is enforced here is 'inducedness' and implemented with nK_2 decomposition of a graph G and thus evolving the concept of the Edge-partition number of a graph, $\pi'_\nu(G)$. Also, for the graphs having property $\mathcal{P}_n(K_2)$ the bounds for ' n ' and the clique number $\omega(G)$ is attained.

6 Acknowledgment

We thank our reviewers and referees for their constructive comments and suggestions.

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