

# A Study on Restrained Triple Connected Two Domination Number of a Graph

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**Abstract:** The concept of triple connected graphs with real life application was introduced by considering the existence of a path containing any three vertices of a graph G.G. Mahadevan etc. al., introduced the concept of triple connected domination number of a graph. In this paper, we introduce a new domination parameter, called restrained triple connected two domination number of a graph. A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a non – trivial graph  $G$  is said to be a restrained triple connected two dominating set, if  $S$  is a restrained two dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all restrained triple connected two dominating sets is called the restrained triple connected two domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G)$ . Any restrained triple connected two dominating set with  $\gamma_{2rtc}$  vertices is called a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set of  $G$ . We determine this number for some standard and special graphs and obtain bounds for general graph. Its relationship with other graph theoretical parameters is also investigated.

**Keywords:** Triple connected graphs, restrained triple connected, restrained triple connected two domination

**Subject Classification:** 05C69

## I. INTRODUCTION

All graphs considered here are finite, undirected without loops and multiple edges. Unless and otherwise stated, the graph  $G = (V, E)$  considered here have  $p = |V|$  vertices and  $q = |E|$  edges.

A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial graph  $G$  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 subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial graph  $G$  is called a *restrained dominating set* of  $G$  if every vertex in  $V - S$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $S$  as well as another vertex in  $V - S$ . The *restrained domination number*  $\gamma_r(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality taken over all restrained dominating sets in  $G$ . A subset  $S$  of  $V$  is said to be two dominating set if every vertex in  $V - S$  is adjacent to atleast two vertices in  $S$ . The minimum cardinality taken over all two dominating sets is called the two domination number and is denoted by  $\gamma_2(G)$ . A subset  $S$  of  $V$  is said to be a *restrained 2-dominating set* of  $G$  if every vertex of  $V - S$  is adjacent to at least two vertices in  $S$  and every vertex of  $V - S$  is adjacent to a vertex in  $V - S$ . The minimum cardinality taken over all restrained two dominating sets is called the *restrained two domination number* and is denoted by  $\gamma_{r2}(G)$ .

A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial graph  $G$  is said to be triple connected dominating set, if  $S$  is a dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all triple connected dominating sets is called the triple connected domination number and is denoted by  $\gamma_{tc}$ . A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a nontrivial graph  $G$  is said to be *restrained triple connected dominating set*, if  $S$  is a restrained dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all restrained triple connected dominating sets is called the *restrained triple connected domination number* and is denoted by  $\gamma_{rtc}$ . A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a non – trivial graph  $G$  is said to be a restrained triple connected two dominating set, if  $S$  is a restrained two dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all restrained triple connected two dominating sets is called the restrained triple connected two domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G)$ . Any restrained triple connected two dominating set with  $\gamma_{2rtc}$  vertices is called a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set of  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.1:** A tree is triple connected iff  $T \cong P_p$ ,  $p \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 1.2:** If the induced subgraph of each connected dominating set of  $G$  has more than two pendant vertices, then  $G$  does not contain a triple connected dominating set.

**Theorem 1.3:** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\left\lceil \frac{p}{\Delta + 1} \right\rceil \leq \gamma(G)$

## II. RESTRAINED TRIPLE CONNECTED TWO DOMINATION NUMBER

**Definition 2.1:** A subset  $S$  of  $V$  of a non – trivial graph  $G$  is said to be a restrained triple connected two dominating set, if  $S$  is a restrained two dominating set and the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  is triple connected. The minimum cardinality taken over all restrained triple connected two dominating sets is called the restrained triple connected two domination number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G)$ . Any restrained triple connected two dominating set with  $\gamma_{2rtc}$  vertices is called a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set of  $G$ .

**Example 2.2:** For the graph  $G_1$  in Figure 2.1,  $S = \{v_3, v_4, v_6, v_7\}$  forms a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set. Hence  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) = 4$ .

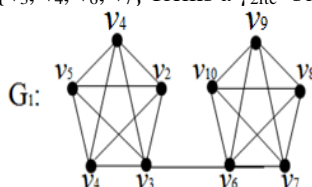


Figure 2.1

**Observation 2.3:**  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set does not exists for all graphs if exists  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) \geq 3$ .

**Observation 2.4:** Every  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set is a dominating set but not conversely.

**Example 2.5:** For the graph  $G_2$ , in Figure 2.2  $S = \{v_1\}$  is a dominating set but not a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

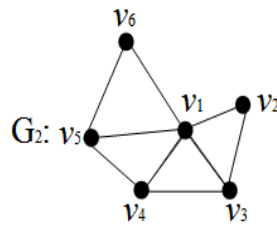


Figure 2.2

**Observation 2.6:** Every  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set is a connected dominating set but not conversely.

**Example 2.7:** For the graph  $G_2$ , in Figure 2.2  $S = \{v_1, v_2\}$  is a connected dominating set but not a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

**Observation 2.8:** Every  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set is a triple connected dominating set but not conversely

**Example 2.9:** For the graph  $G_2$ , in Figure 2.2  $S = \{v_1, v_5, v_6\}$  is a triple connected dominating set but not a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

**Observation 2.10:** Every  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set is a restrained triple connected dominating set but not conversely.

**Example 2.11:** For the graph  $G_2$ , in Figure 2.2  $S = \{v_1, v_5, v_6\}$  is a triple connected dominating set but not a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

**Observation 2.12:** The complement of the  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set need not be a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

**Example 2.13:** For the graph  $G_2$ , in Figure 2.2  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_5, v_6\}$  is a triple connected dominating set but the complement  $V-S = \{v_3, v_4\}$  is not a  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set.

**Theorem 2.14:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma_c(G) \leq \gamma_{tc}(G) \leq \gamma_{2rtc}(G)$ .

## 2.15 Exact value for some standard graphs:

- For any path of order  $p \geq 3$ ,  $\gamma_{2rtc}(P_p) = p$
- For any cycle of order  $p \geq 3$ ,  $\gamma_{2rtc}(C_p) = p$
- For the complete graph of order  $p \geq 3$ ,  $\gamma_{2rtc}(K_p) = \begin{cases} p, & p = 3, 4 \\ 3, & p \geq 5 \end{cases}$
- For the complete bipartite graph  $K_{m,n}$ ,
 
$$\gamma_{2rtc}(K_{m,n}) = \begin{cases} m+n, & m \text{ or } n = 2 \\ & m \text{ or } n \geq 2 \\ 4, & m \text{ or } n \geq 3 \text{ and } \\ & m \text{ or } n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.16:** If the induced subgraph of each connected dominating set of  $G$  has more than two pendant vertices, then  $G$  does not contain a restrained triple connected two dominating set.

The proof follows from Theorem 1.2

**Theorem 2.17:** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 3$  we have  $3 \leq \gamma_{2rtc} \leq p$  and the bounds are sharp.

**Proof:** The lower bound follows from the definition of restrained triple connected two dominating set and the upper bound is obvious. For  $K_p$  the equality of the lower bound is attained and for  $C_p$  and  $P_p$  the equality of the upper bound is attained.

**Theorem 2.18:** For any connected graph  $G$  with five vertices  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) = p - 2$  iff  $G$  is isomorphic to any of the following graphs,  $K_5$ ,  $K_4(1)$ ,  $K_4(2)$ ,  $K_4(3)$ ,  $C_4(3)$ ,  $C_4(4)$ ,  $K_4 - e(3)$ .

**Proof:** If  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_5$ ,  $K_4(1)$ ,  $K_4(2)$ ,  $K_4(3)$ ,  $C_4(3)$ ,  $C_4(4)$  and  $K_4 - e(3)$  then it can be verified that  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) = p - 2$ . Conversely let  $G$  be a connected graph with five vertices and  $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) = 3$ . Let  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  be the  $\gamma_{2rtc}$ - set of  $G$ . Take  $V - S = \{v_4, v_5\}$  and hence  $\langle V - S \rangle = K_2$ . Also  $\langle S \rangle = P_3$  or  $C_3$ .

**Case (i)**  $\langle S \rangle = P_3$  and  $\langle V - S \rangle = K_2$

Let  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  be the vertices of  $P_3$  and  $v_4, v_5$  be the vertices of  $K_2$ . Since  $G$  is connected  $v_1$  (or equivalently  $v_3$ ) is adjacent to  $v_4$  (or  $v_2$  is adjacent to  $v_4$  (or equivalently  $v_5$ )). If  $v_1$  is adjacent to  $v_4$  and  $d(v_4) = 3$  then we can find new graphs by increasing the degrees of  $v_5$ . If  $d(v_4) = 3$ , then  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $(v_1 \text{ and } v_2)$  or  $(v_1 \text{ and } v_3)$  or  $(v_2 \text{ and } v_3)$ . If  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  then we can find new graphs by increasing the degrees of  $v_5$  and we observe that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(1)$ ,  $K_4(2)$ ,  $C_4(3)$ ,  $C_4(4)$ . If  $d(v_4) = 4$ , then  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_3$ . We can find new graphs by increasing the degrees of  $v_5$  and we observe that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(2)$ ,  $K_4 - e(3)$ ,  $K_4(3)$ . Suppose  $v_2$  is adjacent to  $v_4$  then we can find new graphs by increasing the degrees of  $v_5$ . We observe that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(1)$ ,  $C_4(3)$ ,  $K_4(2)$ ,  $K_4(1)$  and  $K_4(2)$ ,  $K_4 - e(3)$  and  $K_4(3)$ .

**Case (ii)**  $\langle S \rangle = C_3$  and  $\langle V - S \rangle = K_2$ .

Let  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  be the vertices of  $C_3$  and  $v_4, v_5$  be the vertices of  $K_2$ . Since  $G$  is connected  $v_4$  or  $v_5$  is adjacent to  $C_3$ . If  $d(v_4) = 3$ , then  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $(v_1 \text{ and } v_2)$  or  $(v_1 \text{ and } v_3)$  or  $(v_2 \text{ and } v_3)$ . If  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  then we can find new graphs by increasing the degrees of  $v_5$ . We observe that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(2)$ ,  $C_4(4)$  or  $K_4 - e(3)$  and  $K_4(3)$ ,  $K_4 - e(3)$ ,  $K_4(2)$  and  $K_4(3)$ . If  $d(v_4) = 4$ , then  $v_4$  is adjacent to  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_3$ . By increasing the degree of  $v_5$   $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(3)$  and  $K_5$ .

**Theorem 2.19:** Let  $G$  be a graph such that  $G$  and  $\bar{G}$  have no isolates of order  $p \geq 3$ . Then

- $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) + \gamma_{2rtc}(\bar{G}) \leq 2p$
- $\gamma_{2rtc}(G) \cdot \gamma_{2rtc}(\bar{G}) \leq p^2$  and the bound is sharp

**Proof:** The bound directly follows from Theorem 2.17. For cycle  $C_p$  and path  $P_p$  equality of both the bounds are attained.

**Relation with other graph parameters:**

**Theorem 2.20:** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \chi(G) \leq 2p$  and the inequality holds if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$  or  $C_3$ .

**Proof:** It is clear that,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) \leq p$  and  $\chi(G) \leq p$ . Thus,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \chi(G) \leq p + p = 2p$ . Suppose  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$ . Then clearly  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \chi(G) = 2p$ . Conversely, let  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \chi(G) = 2p$ , the only possible case is  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) = p$  and  $\chi(G) = p$ . If  $\chi(G) = p$  then  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_p$ . In  $K_p$ ,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) = 3$ ,  $p \neq 4$  and  $\gamma_{2rc}(K_4) = 4$ , so that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$ . Also if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $C_3$ , then  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) = p$  and  $\chi(G) = p$  is possible.

**Theorem 2.21:** For any connected graph  $G$   $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \kappa(G) \leq 2p - 1$  and the equality holds if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$ .

**Proof:** It is clear that  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) \leq p$  and  $\kappa(G) \leq p - 1$ . Thus,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \kappa(G) \leq p + p - 1 = 2p - 1$ . Suppose  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$ . Then clearly  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \kappa(G) = 2p - 1$ . Conversely, let  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \kappa(G) = 2p - 1$ , then the only possible case is  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) = p$  and  $\kappa(G) = p - 1$ . Since  $\kappa(G) = p - 1$ ,  $G$  is a complete graph. In  $K_p$ ,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) = 3$ ,  $p \neq 4$  and  $\gamma_{2rc}(K_4) = 4$ . Hence  $G$  is isomorphic to  $K_3$  or  $K_4$ .

**Theorem 2.22:** For any connected graph  $G$  with  $p \geq 3$  vertices,  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \Delta(G) \leq 2p - 1$  and the bound is sharp.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $p \geq 3$  vertices. We know that,  $\Delta(G) \leq p - 1$  and by Theorem 2.17  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) \leq p$ . Hence  $\gamma_{2rc}(G) + \Delta(G) \leq 2p - 1$ . For  $K_3$  and  $K_4$  the bound is sharp.

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