

# Strong Split Geodetic Number of a Graph

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## ABSTRACT

A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is a strong split geodetic set of  $G$ , if  $S$  is a geodetic set and  $\langle V - S \rangle$  is totally disconnected. The strong split geodetic number of a graph  $G$ , is denoted by  $g_{ss}(G)$ , is the minimum cardinality of a strong split geodetic set of  $G$ . In this paper we investigate many bounds on strong split geodetic number in terms of elements of  $G$  and covering number of  $G$ , further the relationship between strong split geodetic number and split geodetic number.

## Keywords:

Cartesian product, Distance, Edge covering number, Split geodetic number, Vertex covering number.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we follow the notations of [1]. As usual  $n = |V|$  and  $m = |E|$  denote the number of vertices and edges of a graph  $G$  respectively.

The graphs considered here have at least one component which is not complete or at least two non trivial components.

The distance  $d(u, v)$  between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a connected graph  $G$  is the length of a shortest  $u - v$  path in  $G$ . It is well known that this distance is a metric on the vertex set  $V(G)$ . For a vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , the eccentricity  $e(v)$  is the distance between  $v$  and a vertex farthest from  $v$ . The minimum eccentricity among the vertices of  $G$  is radius,  $rad G$ , and the maximum eccentricity is the diameter,  $diam G$ . A  $u - v$  path of length  $d(u, v)$  is called a  $u - v$  geodesic. We define  $I[u, v]$  to the set (interval) of all vertices lying on some  $u - v$  geodesic of  $G$  and for a nonempty subset  $S$  of  $V(G)$ ,  $I[S] = \bigcup_{u, v \in S} I[u, v]$ .

A set  $S$  of vertices of  $G$  is called a geodetic set in  $G$  if  $I[S] = V(G)$ , and a geodetic set of minimum cardinality is a minimum geodetic set. The cardinality of a minimum geodetic set in  $G$  is called the geodetic number of  $G$ , and we denote it by  $g(G)$ .

Split geodetic number of a graph was studied by in [4]. A geodetic set  $S$  of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a split geodetic set if the induced subgraph  $\langle V - S \rangle$  is disconnected. The split geodetic number  $g_s(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality of a split geodetic set. Now we define strong split geodetic number of a graph. A set  $S'$  of vertices

of  $G = (V, E)$  is called the strong split geodetic set if the induced subgraph  $\langle V - S' \rangle$  is totally disconnected and a strong split geodetic set of minimum cardinality is the strong split geodetic number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $g_{ss}(G)$ .

A vertex  $v$  is an extreme vertex in a graph  $G$ , if the subgraph induced by its neighbors is complete. A vertex cover in a graph  $G$  is a set of vertices that covers all edges of  $G$ . The minimum number of vertices in a vertex cover of  $G$  is the vertex covering number  $\alpha_0(G)$  of  $G$ . An edge cover of a graph  $G$  without isolated vertices is a set of edges of  $G$  that covers all the vertices of  $G$ . The edge covering number  $\alpha_1(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the minimum cardinality of an edge cover of  $G$ .

For any undefined term in this paper, see [1] and [2].

## 2. PRELIMINARY NOTES

We need the following results to prove further results.

**THEOREM 2.1.** [3] *Every geodetic set of a graph contains its extreme vertices.*

**THEOREM 2.2.** [3] *For any path  $P_n$ , with  $n$  vertices,  $g(P_n) = 2$ .*

**THEOREM 2.3.** [3] *For integers  $r, s \geq 2$ ,  $g(K_{r,s}) = \min\{r, s, 4\}$ .*

**THEOREM 2.4.** [3] *Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order at least 3. If  $G$  contains a minimum geodetic set  $S$  with a vertex  $x$  such that every vertex of  $G$  lies on some  $x - w$  geodesic in  $G$  for some  $w \in S$ , then  $g(G) = g(G \times K_2)$ .*

**THEOREM 2.5.** [2] *For any graph  $G$ ,  $\alpha_0 + \beta_0 = \alpha_1 + \beta_1$ .*

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *For any graph  $G$ ,  $g_s(G) \leq g_{ss}(G)$ .*

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *For any tree  $T$  of order  $n$  and number of cut vertices  $c_i$  then the number of end edges is  $n - c_i$ .*

3. MAIN RESULTS

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $T$  be a tree that has at least three internal vertices. If  $T$  has  $k$  end-vertices, then  $g_{ss}(T) = k + \lceil \frac{n-(k+1)}{2} \rceil$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $F = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  be the set of all end vertices in  $T$ ,  $|F| = k$ . Consider  $S = F \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq V(T) - F$ , such that  $H$  contains a vertex of maximum degree and a minimum set of alternating vertices in  $V - F$ ,  $|H| = \lceil \frac{n-(k+1)}{2} \rceil$ . Now  $S$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $T$ . Clearly set of vertices of a subgraph  $\langle V - S \rangle$  is totally disconnected, then by the above argument  $S$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $T$ . Clearly it follows that,  $|S| = |F \cup H| = k + \lceil \frac{n-(k+1)}{2} \rceil$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(T) = k + \lceil \frac{n-(k+1)}{2} \rceil$ .

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *For any path  $P_n$ ,  $n \geq 5$ ,  $g_{ss}(P_n) = 2 + \lceil \frac{n-3}{2} \rceil$ .*

*Proof.* Proof follows from the above theorem.

**THEOREM 3.3.** *For cycle  $C_n$  of order  $n > 3$*

$$g_{ss}(C_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{n+1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $n > 3$ , we have the following cases.

Case 1: Let  $n$  be even.

Consider  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, v_1\}$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices where  $n$  is even, let  $S = \{v_1, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$  be the set of alternating vertices which covers all the vertices of  $C_n$  and for any  $v_i \in V - S$ ,  $deg v_i = 0$ . Clearly  $S$  forms minimal strong split geodetic set of  $C_n$ , it follows that  $|S| = \frac{n}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \frac{n}{2}$ .

Case 2: Let  $n$  be odd.

Consider  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices where  $n$  is odd, let  $S = (v_1, v_n) \cup \{v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-2}\}$  which covers all the vertices of  $C_n$  and for any  $v_i \in V - S$ ,  $deg v_i = 0$ . Clearly  $S$  forms minimal strong split geodetic set of  $C_n$ , it follows that  $|S| = \frac{n+1}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \frac{n+1}{2}$ .

**COROLLARY 3.4.** *For any cycle  $C_n$  of order  $n > 3$ ,  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \alpha_0(C_n)$ .*

*Proof.* We have the following cases.

Case 1: Let  $n$  be even.

Let  $n > 3$  be the number of vertices which is even and  $\alpha_0$  is the vertex covering number of  $C_n$ . We have by Case 1 of Theorem 3.3,  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \frac{n}{2}$ . Also for even cycle, vertex covering number is  $\alpha_0(C_n) = \frac{n}{2}$ . Hence  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \alpha_0(C_n)$ .

Case 2: Let  $n$  be odd.

Let  $n > 3$  be the number of vertices which is odd and  $\alpha_0$  is the vertex covering number of  $C_n$ . We have by Case 2 of Theorem 3.3,  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \frac{n+1}{2}$ . Also for odd cycle, vertex covering number is  $\alpha_0(C_n) = \frac{n+1}{2}$ . Hence  $g_{ss}(C_n) = \alpha_0(C_n)$ .

**THEOREM 3.5.** *For the wheel  $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1}$  ( $n \geq 6$ ),*

$$g_{ss}(W_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{n+2}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{n+1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1}$  ( $n \geq 6$ ) and let  $V(W_n) = \{x, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}\}$ , where  $deg(x) = n - 1 > 3$  and  $deg(u_i) = 3$  for each  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$ . We have the following cases

Case 1. Let  $n$  be even. Consider geodesic  $P : \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ ,  $Q : \{u_3, u_4, u_5\}, \dots, R : \{u_{2n-1}, u_{2n}, u_{2n+1}, x\}$ . It is clear that the vertices  $u_2, u_4, \dots, u_{2n}$  lies on the geodesics  $P, Q, \dots, R$ . Also  $S = \{u_1, u_3, u_5, \dots, u_{2n-1}, u_{2n+1}, x\}$  is a minimal strong split geodesic set such that  $V - S$  is totally disconnected and it has  $\frac{n}{2} + 1$  vertices. Hence  $g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{n+2}{2}$ .

Case 2. Let  $n$  be odd. Consider geodesic  $P : \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ ,  $Q : \{u_3, u_4, u_5\}, \dots, R : \{u_{2n-1}, u_{2n}, u_{2n+1}, x\}$ . It is clear that the vertices  $u_2, u_4, \dots, u_{2n}$  lies on the geodesic  $P, Q, \dots, R$ . Also  $S = \{u_1, u_3, u_5, \dots, u_{2n-1}, u_{2n+1}, x\}$  is a minimal strong split geodesic set such that  $V - S$  is totally disconnected and it has  $\frac{n-1}{2} + 1$  vertices. Hence  $g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{n+1}{2}$ .

**COROLLARY 3.6.** *For the wheel  $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1}$  ( $n \geq 6$ ),*

$$g_{ss}(W_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{\Delta+\delta}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{\Delta+\delta-1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1}$  ( $n \geq 6$ ) and let  $V(W_n) = \{x, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}\}$ , where  $deg(x) = n - 1 > 3$  and  $deg(u_i) = 3$  for each  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$ . Maximum degree( $\Delta$ ) of  $W_n$  is  $n - 1$  and minimum degree( $\delta$ ) of  $W_n$  is 3.

We have the following cases

Case 1: Let  $n$  be even. We have from Case 1 of Theorem 3.5  $g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{n+2}{2}$   
 $\Rightarrow g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{(n-1)+3}{2}$   
 $\Rightarrow g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{\Delta+\delta}{2}$ .

Case 2: Let  $n$  be odd. We have from Case 2 of Theorem 3.5  $g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{n+1}{2}$   
 $\Rightarrow g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{(n-1)+3-1}{2}$   
 $\Rightarrow g_{ss}(W_n) = \frac{\Delta+\delta-1}{2}$ .

**THEOREM 3.7.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  and diameter  $d$ . Then  $g_{ss}(G) \leq n - d + 2$ , except for tree.*

*Proof.* Let  $u$  and  $v$  be vertices of  $G$  for which  $d(u, v) = d$  and let  $u = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_d = v$  be the  $u - v$  path of length  $d$ . Now let  $S = V(G) - \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{d-1}\}$ . Then  $I[S] = V(G)$ ,  $V - (S \cup \{v_i\})$  is totally disconnected and thus  $g_{ss}(G) \leq |S| + 1 = n - d + 2$ .

**THEOREM 3.8.** *For any tree  $T$  with at least three internal vertices and order  $n$ , diameter  $d$ . Then  $g_{ss}(G) \leq n - d + k$ , where  $k$  be the number of end vertices.*

*Proof.* Let  $u$  and  $v$  be vertices of  $G$  for which  $d(u, v) = d$  and let  $u = v_0, v_1, \dots, v_d = v$  be the  $u - v$  path of length  $d$ . Now let  $S = V(G) - \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{d-1}\}$ . Then  $I[S] = V(G)$ ,  $V - (S \cup \{v_2, v_3, \dots, v_{k-2}\})$  is totally disconnected and thus  $g_{ss}(G) \leq |S| + k - 1 = n - d + k$ .

**THEOREM 3.9.** For any integers  $r, s \geq 2$   $g_{ss}(K_{r,s}) = \min\{r, s\}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G = K_{r,s}$ , such that  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$ ,  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_s\}$  are the partite sets of  $G$ , where  $r \leq s$  and also  $V = U \cup W$ .

Consider  $S = U$ , for every  $w_k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq s$  lies on the  $u_i - u_j$  geodesic for  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq r$ . Since  $V - S$  is totally disconnected, we have  $S$  is a strong split geodesic set of  $G$ .

Let  $X = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{r-1}\}$  be any set of vertices such that  $|X| < |S|$ , then  $X$  is not a geodesic set of  $G$ , since  $u_r \notin I[X]$ . It is clear that  $S$  is a minimum strong split geodesic set of  $G$ . Hence  $g_{ss}(K_{r,s}) = |S| = r$ .

**THEOREM 3.10.** For any connected graph  $G$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_s(G) + g_{ss}(G) < 2n$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V(G)$  be the set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $G$  and  $V - S$  is disconnected. Then  $S$  is a minimal split geodesic set of  $G$ . Further if the subgraph  $(V - S)$  contains the set of vertices  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , such that  $deg_{v_i} = 0$ . Then  $S$  itself is a strong split geodesic set of  $G$ . Otherwise,  $S' = S_1 \cup I$ , where  $S_1 \subseteq S$  and  $I \subseteq V(G) - S$  is the minimum set of alternate vertices,  $S'$  forms a minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G$ . Since  $V - S'$  contains isolated vertices, it follows that  $|S| \cup |S'| < 2n$ . Therefore,  $g_s(G) + g_{ss}(G) < 2n$ .

The following corollaries are immediate consequence of above Theorem and Theorem 2.5.

**COROLLARY 3.11.** For any connected graph  $G$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_s(G) + g_{ss}(G) < 2(\alpha_0(G) + \beta_0(G))$ .

**COROLLARY 3.12.** For any connected graph  $G$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_s(G) + g_{ss}(G) < 2(\alpha_1(G) + \beta_1(G))$ .

#### 4. ADDING AN END EDGE

For an edge  $e = (u, v)$  of a graph  $G$  with  $deg(u) = 1$  and  $deg(v) > 1$ , we call  $e$  an end-edge and  $u$  an end-vertex.

**THEOREM 4.1.**  $G'$  be the graph obtained by adding an end edge  $(u, v)$  to a cycle  $C_n = G$  of order  $n > 3$ , with  $u \in G$  and  $v \notin G$ . Then

$$g_{ss}(G') = \begin{cases} \frac{n+2}{2} & \text{for even cycle} \\ \frac{n+3}{2} & \text{for odd cycle.} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, u_1\}$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices. Let  $G'$  be the graph obtained from  $G = C_n$  by adding an end-edge  $(u, v)$  such that  $u \in G$  and  $v \notin G$ .

We have the following cases.

Case 1: Let  $G$  be an even cycle.

Let  $S = \{v, u_i\} \subseteq V(G')$ , where  $v \notin G$  is an end vertex of  $G'$  and  $u_i$  is an antipodal vertex of  $u$ . Consider  $S' = S \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq V(G') - S$  is a minimum set of non-adjacent vertices,  $|H| = \frac{n}{2} - 1$ . Now  $S'$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices of  $G'$ . Clearly for any  $u_i \in V - S'$ ,  $deg_{u_i} = 0$ ,

by the above argument it follows that  $S'$  is a minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G'$ . Clearly  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = 2 + \frac{n}{2} - 1 = \frac{n+2}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(G') = \frac{n+2}{2}$ .

Case 2: Let  $G$  be an odd cycle.

(a) When  $n = 5$

Let  $S = \{v, a, b\}$  be a geodesic set, where  $v \notin G$ , is an end-vertex of  $G'$  and  $a, b \in G$ , such that  $2d(u, a) = d(u, b)$  and  $d(a, b) = 2$ . Thus  $I[S] = V(G')$  and  $V - S$  is an induced subgraph which has two components. Let  $S' = S \cup H$  where  $H \subseteq V - S$  such that  $H$  contains minimum alternate vertices from both the components having  $\frac{n-3}{2}$  vertices. Clearly  $S'$  forms the minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G'$ , since  $V - S'$  forms an independent set. Clearly  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = 3 + \frac{n-3}{2} = \frac{n+3}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(G') = \frac{n+3}{2}$ .

(b) When  $n > 5$

Let  $S = \{v, a, b\}$  be a geodesic set where  $v \notin G$  is an end-vertex of  $G'$  and  $a, b \in G$ , such that  $d(u, a) = d(u, b)$  and  $d(a, b)$  is the diameter of  $G$ . Thus  $I[S] = V(G')$  and  $V - S$  is an induced subgraph which has two components. Let  $S' = S \cup H$  where  $H \subseteq V - S$  such that  $H$  contains minimum alternate vertices from both the components having  $\frac{n-3}{2}$  vertices. Clearly  $S'$  forms the minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G'$ , since  $V - S'$  forms an independent set. Clearly  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = 3 + \frac{n-3}{2} = \frac{n+3}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(G') = \frac{n+3}{2}$ .

**THEOREM 4.2.** Let  $G'$  be the graph obtained by adding end edge  $(u_i, v_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , to each vertex of  $G = C_n$  of order  $n > 3$  such that  $u_i \in G$ ,  $v_j \notin G$ . Then

$$g_{ss}(G') = \begin{cases} k + \frac{n}{2} & \text{for even cycle} \\ k + \frac{n+1}{2} & \text{for odd cycle.} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Let  $G = C_n = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, u_1\}$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices. Let  $G'$  be the graph obtained by adding an end-edge  $(u_i, v_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n = k$  to each vertex of  $G$  such that  $u_i \in G$ ,  $v_i \notin G$ .

Case 1: Let  $G$  be an even cycle.

Let  $F = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  is the  $k$  number of end-vertices of  $G'$  and  $H \subseteq V(G') - F$  is an even cycle. Let  $S = F \cup H_1$ , where  $H_1 \subseteq H$  such that  $H_1 \notin E(H)$ . Now  $S$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $G'$ . Clearly for any  $u_i \in G'$ ,  $deg(u_i) = 0$ . Then by the above argument  $S$  is the minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G'$ , it follows that  $|S| = |F \cup H_1| = k + \frac{n}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(G') = k + \frac{n}{2}$ .

Case 2: Let  $G$  be odd cycle.

Let  $F = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  is the  $k$  number of end-vertices of  $G'$  and  $H \subseteq V(G') - F$  is an odd cycle. Let  $S = F \cup (u_1, u_n) \cup H_1$ , where  $H_1 \subseteq H$  such that  $H_1 \notin E(H)$ . Now  $S$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $G'$ . Clearly for any  $u_i \in G'$ ,  $deg(u_i) = 0$ . Then by the above argument  $S$  is the minimal strong split geodesic set of  $G'$ , it follows that  $|S| = |F \cup (u_1, u_n) \cup H_1| = k + 2 + \frac{n-3}{2}$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(G') = k + \frac{n+1}{2}$ .

### 5. CARTESIAN PRODUCT

The cartesian product of the graphs  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , written as  $H_1 \times H_2$ , is the graph with vertex set  $V(H_1) \times V(H_2)$ , two vertices  $u_1, u_2$  and  $v_1, v_2$  being adjacent in  $H_1 \times H_2$  if and only if either  $u_1 = v_1$  and  $(u_2, v_2) \in E(H_2)$ , or  $u_2 = v_2$  and  $(u_1, v_1) \in E(H_1)$ .

**THEOREM 5.1.** For any path  $P_n$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times P_n) = n$ .

**Proof.** Consider  $G = P_n$ . Let  $K_2 \times P_n$  be graph formed from two Copies  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  of  $G$ . Let  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  be the vertices of  $G_1$ ,  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  be the vertices of  $G_2$  and  $U = V \cup W$ . Case 1. Let  $n$  be even.

Consider  $S = H_1 \cup H_2$ , where  $H_1 = \{v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-1}\} \subseteq V$  having  $\frac{n}{2}$  vertices,  $H_2 = \{w_2, w_4, w_6, \dots, w_n\} \subseteq W$  having  $\frac{n}{2}$  vertices. Now  $S$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_2 \times P_n$ . Such that set of vertices of a subgraph  $U - S$  is isolated, then by the above argument  $S$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_2 \times P_n$ . Clearly it follows that,  $|S| = |H_1 \cup H_2| = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{2} = n$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times P_n) = n$ .

Case 2. Let  $n$  be odd.

Consider  $S = H_1 \cup H_2$ , where  $H_1 = \{v_2, v_4, v_6, \dots, v_{n-1}\} \subseteq V$  having  $\frac{n-1}{2}$  vertices,  $H_2 = \{w_1, w_3, w_5, \dots, w_n\} \subseteq W$  having  $\frac{n+1}{2}$  vertices. Now  $S$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_2 \times P_n$ . Such that set of vertices of a subgraph  $U - S$  is isolated, then by the above argument  $S$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_2 \times P_n$ . Clearly it follows that,  $|S| = |H_1 \cup H_2| = \frac{n-1}{2} + \frac{n+1}{2} = n$ . Therefore  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times P_n) = n$ . The following Corollaries are immediate consequence of above Theorem and Theorem 2.5.

**COROLLARY 5.2.** For any path  $P_n$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times P_n) = \alpha_0 + \beta_0$ .

**COROLLARY 5.3.** For any path  $P_n$  of order  $n$ ,  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times P_n) = \alpha_1 + \beta_1$ .

**THEOREM 5.4.** For any complete graph of order  $n$ ,  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times K_n) = 2n - 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be disjoint copies of  $G = K_n, n \geq 2$ . Let  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  be the vertex set of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  respectively and let  $v_i w_i \in E(K_2 \times K_n)$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Let  $S$  be the minimum geodetic set of  $K_2 \times K_n$  by Theorem 2.4  $g(K_2 \times K_n) = g(K_n) = n$ . Consider  $S' = S \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq U - S$  having  $n - 2$  vertices, since  $U - S$  has two components which are complete graphs. Now  $S'$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_2 \times K_n$ , such that set of vertices of subgraph  $U - S'$  are isolated, then by the above argument  $S'$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_2 \times K_n$ . Clearly it follows that  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = n + n - 2 = 2n - 2$ .

**OBSERVATION 5.5.** For any complete graph of order  $n$ ,  $g(K_3 \times K_n) = g(K_n)$ .

**THEOREM 5.6.** For any complete graph of order  $n$ ,  $g_{ss}(K_3 \times K_n) = 3n - 3$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be disjoint copies of  $G = K_n, n \geq 2$ . Let  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ ,  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$  and  $Z =$

$\{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n\}$  be the vertex set of  $G_1, G_2$  and  $G_3$  respectively. Let  $S$  be the minimum geodetic set of  $K_3 \times K_n$  by Observation 5.5  $g(K_3 \times K_n) = g(K_n) = n$ . Consider  $S' = S \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq V - S$  having  $2n - 3$  vertices. Now  $S'$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_3 \times K_n$ , such that set of vertices of subgraph  $V - S'$  are isolated, then by the above argument  $S'$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_3 \times K_n$ . Clearly it follows that  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = n + 2n - 3 = 3n - 3$ .

**THEOREM 5.7.**  $G'$  be the graph obtained by adding an end edge  $(u, v)$  to a cycle  $C_n = G$  of order  $n > 3$ , with  $u \in G$  and  $v \notin G$ . Then  $g_{ss}(K_2 \times G') = n + 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, u_1\}$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices. Let  $G'$  be the graph obtained from  $G = C_n$  by adding an end-edge  $(u, v)$  such that  $u \in G$  and  $v \notin G$ .

We have the following cases.

Case 1: Let  $G$  be an even cycle.

Let  $S$  be the minimum geodetic set of  $K_2 \times G'$ , by Theorem 2.4  $g(K_2 \times G') = g(G') = 2$ . Consider  $S' = S \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq V - S$  having  $n$  vertices. Now  $S'$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_2 \times G'$ , such that set of vertices of subgraph  $V - S'$  are totally disconnected. Then by the above argument  $S'$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_2 \times G'$ . Clearly it follows that  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = 2 + n$ .

Case 2: Let  $G$  be an odd cycle.

Let  $S$  be the minimum geodetic set of  $K_2 \times G'$ , by Theorem 2.4  $g(K_2 \times G') = g(G') = 3$ . Consider  $S' = S \cup H$ , where  $H \subseteq V - S$  having  $n - 1$  vertices. Now  $S'$  be the minimal set of vertices which covers all the vertices in  $K_2 \times G'$ , such that set of vertices of subgraph  $V - S'$  are totally disconnected. Then by the above argument  $S'$  is a minimal strong split geodetic set of  $K_2 \times G'$ . Clearly it follows that  $|S'| = |S \cup H| = 3 + n - 1 = n + 2$ .

### 6. CONCLUSION

In this paper we establish many bounds on strong split geodetic number in terms of elements of  $G$  and covering number of  $G$ , further the relationship between strong split geodetic number and split geodetic number.

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