

On k -Dependent Domination in Graphs

Vladimir Samodivkin

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Abstract. A subset D of vertices in a graph G is k -dependent if the maximum degree of a vertex in the subgraph $\langle D \rangle$ induced by D is at most k . The k -dependent domination number $\gamma^k(G)$ of a graph G is the minimum cardinality of a k -dependent dominating set of G . Any k -dependent dominating set D of a graph G with $|D| = \gamma^k(G)$ is called a γ^k -set of G . A vertex x of a graph G is called: (i) γ^k -good if x belongs to some γ^k -set, (ii) γ^k -fixed if x belongs to every γ^k -set, (iii) γ^k -free if x belongs to some γ^k -set but not to all γ^k -sets, (iv) γ^k -bad if x belongs to no γ^k -set. In this paper we deal with γ^k -good/bad/fixed/free vertices and present results on changing and unchanging of the k -dependent domination number when a graph is modified by adding an edge or deleting a vertex.

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§1. INTRODUCTION

We consider finite, simple graphs. For notation and graph theory terminology not presented here, we follow Haynes, et al. [5]. We denote the vertex set and the edge set of a graph G by $V(G)$ and $E(G)$, respectively. The subgraph induced by $S \subseteq V(G)$ is denoted by $\langle S, G \rangle$. For a vertex x of G , $N(x, G)$ denote the set of all neighbors of x in G and $N[x, G] = N(x, G) \cup \{x\}$. The *maximum degree* of the graph G is denoted by $\Delta(G)$. For a graph G , let $x \in X \subseteq V(G)$. The *private neighbor set of x with respect to X* is $pn[x, X] = \{y \in V(G) : N[y, G] \cap X = \{x\}\}$.

Let G be a graph and $S \subseteq V(G)$. A set S is called k -dependent if $\Delta(\langle S, G \rangle) \leq k$. If $\Delta(\langle S, G \rangle) = 0$ then S is called *independent*. We let $i(G)$ denote the minimum cardinality of a maximal independent set of vertices in G . A k -dependent dominating set D in a graph G is a vertex subset which is both k -dependent and dominating. The minimum cardinality of an k -dependent dominating set

of G is called the k -dependent domination number and is denoted by $\gamma^k(G)$. The concept of k -dependent domination was introduced by Favaron, Hedetniemi, Hedetniemi and Rall [2]. Note that $\gamma^{\Delta(G)}(G) = \gamma(G)$ - the ordinary domination number of a graph and $\gamma^0(G) = i(G)$.

Much has been written about the effects on domination related parameters when a graph is modified by deleting a vertex, adding an edge or deleting an edge. For surveys see [5, Chapter 5], [6, Chapter 16]. In this paper we present results on changing and unchanging of the k -dependent domination number when an edge is added or a vertex is deleted.

§2. VERTEX DELETION AND EDGE ADDITION

Let $\mu(G)$ be a numerical invariant of a graph G defined in such a way that it is the minimum or maximum number of vertices of a set $S \subseteq V(G)$ with a given property P . A set with property P and with $\mu(G)$ vertices in G is called a μ -set of G . A graph G is *vertex- μ -critical* if $\gamma(G - v) \neq \gamma(G)$ for all v in $V(G)$. A vertex v of a graph G is defined to be

- (a) [4] μ -good, if v belongs to some μ -set of G ;
- (b) [4] μ -bad, if v belongs to no μ -set of G ;
- (c) [8] μ -fixed if v belongs to every μ -set;
- (d) [8] μ -free if v belongs to some μ -set but not to all μ -sets.

For a graph G we define:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{G}^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : x \text{ is } \gamma^k\text{-good}\}; \\ \mathbf{B}^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : x \text{ is } \gamma^k\text{-bad}\}; \\ \mathbf{Fi}^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : x \text{ is } \gamma^k\text{-fixed}\}; \\ \mathbf{Fr}^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : x \text{ is } \gamma^k\text{-free}\}; \\ \mathbf{V}_0^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G)\}; \\ \mathbf{V}_-^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) < \gamma^k(G)\}; \\ \mathbf{V}_+^k(G) &= \{x \in V(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) > \gamma^k(G)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, $\{\mathbf{V}_-^k(G), \mathbf{V}_0^k(G), \mathbf{V}_+^k(G)\}$ and $\{\mathbf{G}^k(G), \mathbf{B}^k(G)\}$ are partitions of $V(G)$, and $\{\mathbf{Fi}^k(G), \mathbf{Fr}^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{G}^k(G)$.

Proposition 2.1. *Let G be a graph and $v \in \mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$. Then:*

- (1) $\gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$; for any γ^k -set M of $G - v$ the set $M_v = M \cup \{v\}$ is a γ^k -set of G and any neighbor of v is a γ^k -bad vertex in $G - v$;
- (2) $\mathbf{G}^k(G - v) \subseteq \mathbf{G}^k(G)$, $\mathbf{Fi}^k(G - v) \supseteq \mathbf{Fi}^k(G) - \{v\}$ and $\mathbf{B}^k(G - v) \supseteq \mathbf{B}^k(G)$;
- (3) if u is a γ^k -fixed vertex of G and $u \neq v$ then $uv \notin E(G)$.

Proof. (1) Let M be an arbitrary γ^k -set of $G - v$. If $u \in M$ then $u \notin N(v, G)$ - otherwise M will be a k -dependent dominating set of G , which is a contradiction with $\gamma^k(G - v) < \gamma^k(G)$. Then M_v is a k -dependent dominating set of G and $\gamma^k(G) \leq |M_v| = \gamma^k(G - v) + 1 \leq \gamma^k(G)$.

(2) Immediately follows by (1).

(3) By (2), $u \in \mathbf{Fi}^k(G - v)$ and by (1), $uv \notin E(G)$. \square

Proposition 2.2. *Let G be a graph and $v \in V(G)$.*

(1) ([1] when $k = \Delta(G)$) *Let $v \in \mathbf{V}_+^k(G)$. Then v is a γ^k -fixed vertex of G ;*

(2) *If v is a γ^k -bad vertex of G then $\gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G)$.*

Proof. (1) Let M be a γ^k -set of G . Assume $v \notin M$. Then M is a k -dependent dominating set of $G - v$ which implies $\gamma^k(G) < \gamma^k(G - v) \leq |M| = \gamma^k(G)$ - a contradiction.

(2) By (1), $\gamma^k(G - v) \leq \gamma^k(G)$ and by Proposition 2.1(1), $\gamma^k(G - v) \geq \gamma^k(G)$. \square

Since for every $v \in V(G)$, $\gamma^k(G - v) \leq |V(G)| - 1$ and because of Proposition 2.1 we have $\gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G) + p$, where $p \in \{-1, 0, \dots, |V(G)| - 2\}$. This motivated us to define for a graph G :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Fr}_-^k(G) &= \{x \in \mathbf{Fr}^k(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G) - 1\}; \\ \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G) &= \{x \in \mathbf{Fr}^k(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G)\}; \\ \mathbf{Fi}_p^k(G) &= \{x \in \mathbf{Fi}^k(G) : \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G) + p\}, p \in \{-1, 0, \dots, |V(G)| - 2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let G be a graph of order n . By Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 we have:

- (e) $\{\mathbf{Fr}_-^k(G), \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{Fr}^k(G)$;
- (f) $\{\mathbf{Fi}_{-1}^k(G), \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G), \dots, \mathbf{Fi}_{n-2}^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{Fi}^k(G)$;
- (g) $\{\mathbf{Fi}_{-1}^k(G), \mathbf{Fr}_-^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$;
- (h) $\{\mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G), \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G), \mathbf{B}^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{V}_0^k(G)$;
- (i) $\{\mathbf{Fi}_1^k(G), \mathbf{Fi}_2^k(G), \dots, \mathbf{Fi}_{n-2}^k(G)\}$ is a partition of $\mathbf{V}_+^k(G)$.

Theorem 2.3. *Let G be a graph of order $n \geq 2$. Then G is a vertex- γ^k -critical graph if and only if $\gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$ for all $v \in V(G)$.*

Proof. Necessity is obvious.

Sufficiency: Let G be a γ^k -critical graph. For every isolated vertex $v \in V(G)$, $\gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$. So, let G have a component of order at least two, say Q . By Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 it follows that either for all $v \in V(Q)$, $\gamma^k(Q - v) > \gamma^k(Q)$ or for all $v \in V(Q)$, $\gamma^k(Q - v) = \gamma^k(Q) - 1$. Suppose, for all $v \in V(Q)$, $\gamma^k(Q - v) > \gamma^k(Q)$. But then Proposition 2.2(1) implies that $V(Q)$ is a γ^k -set of Q . This is a contradiction with $\gamma^k(Q - v) > \gamma^k(Q)$. \square

When $k \in \{0, \Delta(G)\}$ the theorem above due to Ao and MacGillivray (as is referred in [6]) and Carrington, Harary and Haynes [1] respectively.

Theorem 2.4. *Let x and y be two nonadjacent vertices in a graph G . If $\gamma^k(G + xy) < \gamma^k(G)$ then $\gamma^k(G + xy) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$. Moreover, $\gamma^k(G + xy) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$ if and only if at least one of the following holds:*

- (i) $x \in \mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$ and y is a γ^k -good vertex of $G - x$;
- (ii) x is a γ^k -good vertex of $G - y$ and $y \in \mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$.

Proof. Let $\gamma^k(G + xy) < \gamma^k(G)$ and M be a γ^k -set of $G + xy$. Then $|\{x, y\} \cap M| = 1$, otherwise M will be a k -dependent dominating set of G which is a contradiction. Let without loss of generalities $x \notin M$ and $y \in M$. Since M is no dominating set of G then $M \cap N(x, G) = \emptyset$. Hence $M_1 = M \cup \{x\}$ is a k -dependent dominating set of G with $|M_1| = \gamma^k(G + xy) + 1$ which implies $\gamma^k(G) = \gamma^k(G + xy) + 1$. Since M is a k -dependent dominating set of $G - x$, $\gamma^k(G - x) \leq \gamma^k(G + xy)$. Hence $\gamma^k(G) \geq \gamma^k(G - x) + 1$ and by Proposition 2.1 follows $\gamma^k(G) = \gamma^k(G - x) + 1$. Thus x is in $\mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$ and M is a γ^k -set of $G - x$. Since $y \in M$ then y is a γ^k -good vertex of $G - x$.

For the converse let without loss of generalities (i) hold. Then there is a γ^k -set M of $G - x$ with $y \in M$. Certainly M is a k -dependent dominating set of $G + xy$ and then $\gamma^k(G + xy) \leq |M| = \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G) - 1 \leq \gamma^k(G + xy)$. \square

Corollary 2.5. *Let x and y be two nonadjacent vertices in a graph G and $x \in \mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$. Then $\gamma^k(G) - 1 \leq \gamma^k(G + xy) \leq \gamma^k(G)$.*

Proof. Let M be a γ^k -set of $G - x$. If $y \in \mathbf{G}^k(G - x)$ then by Theorem 2.4 $\gamma^k(G) - 1 = \gamma^k(G + xy)$. So that, let $y \in \mathbf{B}^k(G - x)$. By Proposition 2.1, $M_1 = M \cup \{x\}$ is a γ^k -set of G and $M_1 \cap N(x, G) = \emptyset$. Hence M_1 is a k -dependent dominating set of $G + xy$ and $\gamma^k(G + xy) \leq |M_1| = \gamma^k(G - x) + 1 = \gamma^k(G)$. \square

We will refine the definitions of the γ^k -free vertex and the γ^k -fixed vertex as follows. Let x be a vertex of a graph G .

- (j) x is called γ_0^k -free if $x \in \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)$;
- (k) x is called $\gamma_-^k(G)$ -free if $x \in \mathbf{Fr}_-^k(G)$ and
- (l) x is called $\gamma_q^k(G)$ -fixed if $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_q^k(G)$, where $q \in \{-1, 0, 1, \dots, |V(G)| - 2\}$.

We need the following useful lemma:

Lemma 2.6. *Let x be a γ_0^k -fixed vertex of a graph G . Then $N(x, G) \subseteq \mathbf{B}^k(G - x) \cap (\mathbf{V}_0^k(G) \cup \mathbf{Fi}_1^k(G))$.*

Proof. Let M be a γ^k -set of $G - x$ and $y \in N(x, G)$. If $y \in M$ then M will be a k -dependent dominating set of G of cardinality $|M| = \gamma^k(G - x) = \gamma^k(G) - 1$ - a contradiction with $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$. Thus $N(x, G) \subseteq \mathbf{B}^k(G - x)$. By Proposition 2.1(3) it follows $y \notin \mathbf{V}_-^k(G)$. Assume $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_p^k(G)$ for some $p \geq 2$. It follows by $M \cap N(x, G) = \emptyset$ that $M_2 = M \cup \{x\}$ is a k -dependent dominating set of G

with $|M_2| = \gamma^k(G-x)+1 = \gamma^k(G)+1$. But $y \notin M$ and then $|M_2| \geq \gamma^k(G)+p$. Thus we have a contradiction. \square

It is well known fact that for any edge $e \in \overline{G}$, $\gamma(G+e) \leq \gamma(G)$ ([5]). In general, for γ^k this is not valid.

Theorem 2.7. *Let x and y be two nonadjacent vertices in a graph G . Then $\gamma^k(G+xy) > \gamma^k(G)$ if and only if every γ^k -set of G is no k -dependent set of $G+xy$ and one of the following holds:*

- (1) x is a γ_p^k -fixed vertex of G and y is a γ_q^k -fixed vertex of G for some $p, q \geq 1$;
- (2) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_1^k(G) \cap \mathbf{B}^k(G-x)$;
- (3) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_1^k(G) \cap \mathbf{B}^k(G-y)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$;
- (4) $x, y \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$, $x \in \mathbf{B}^k(G-y)$ and $y \in \mathbf{B}^k(G-x)$.

Proof. Let $\gamma^k(G+xy) > \gamma^k(G)$. By Corollary 2.5, $x, y \in \mathbf{V}_0^k(G) \cup \mathbf{V}_+^k(G)$. Assume to the contrary, that (without loss of generalities) $x \notin \mathbf{Fi}^k(G)$. Hence there is a γ^k -set M of G with $x \notin M$. But then M will be a k -dependent dominating set of $G+xy$ and $|M| = \gamma^k(G) < \gamma^k(G+xy)$ - a contradiction. Thus x and y are both γ^k -fixed vertices of G . This implies that each γ^k -set M of G is a dominating set of $G+xy$ and is no k -dependent set of $G+xy$.

Let x be γ_p^k -fixed, y be γ_q^k -fixed and without loss of generalities, $q \geq p \geq 0$. Assume (1) does not hold. Hence $p = 0$. Let M_1 be a γ^k -set of $G-x$. Then $|M_1| = \gamma^k(G-x) = \gamma^k(G) < \gamma^k(G+xy)$ and we have that y is a γ^k -bad vertex of $G-x$. By Lemma 2.6, $N(x, G) \cap M_1 = \emptyset$. Then $M_1 \cup \{x\}$ is a k -dependent dominating set of $G+xy$ which implies $\gamma^k(G+xy) = \gamma^k(G) + 1$. Since $y \notin M_1 \cup \{x\}$ then $M_1 \cup \{x\}$ is a k -dependent dominating set of $G-y$ and then $\gamma^k(G) + 1 = |M_1 \cup \{x\}| \geq \gamma^k(G-y) = \gamma^k(G) + q$. So, $q \in \{0, 1\}$. If $q = 1$ then (2) holds. If $q = 0$ then by symmetry, it follows that x is a γ^k -bad vertex of $G-y$ and hence (4) holds.

For the converse, let every γ^k -set of G be no k -dependent set of $G+xy$ and let one of the conditions (1), (2), (3) and (4) holds. Assume to the contrary, that $\gamma^k(G+xy) \leq \gamma^k(G)$. By Theorem 2.4, $\gamma^k(G+xy) = \gamma^k(G)$. Let M_2 be a γ^k -set of $G+xy$. Hence $|M_2 \cap \{x, y\}| = 1$ - otherwise M_2 will be a γ^k -set of G . Let without loss of generalities $x \notin M_2$. Then M_2 is a k -dependent dominating set of $G-x$ which implies $\gamma^k(G-x) \leq |M_2| = \gamma^k(G+xy) = \gamma^k(G)$. Since $x \in V_0^k(G) \cup V_+^k(G)$, we have $\gamma^k(G-x) = \gamma^k(G+xy) = \gamma^k(G)$ and then M_2 is a γ^k -set of $G-x$. Hence x is a γ_0^k -fixed vertex of G and y is a γ^k -good vertex of $G-x$, which is a contradiction with each of (1) — (4). \square

By Theorem 2.4 and Theorem 2.7 we immediately have:

Theorem 2.8. *Let x and y be two nonadjacent vertices in a graph G . Then $\gamma^k(G+xy) = \gamma^k(G)$ if and only if at least one of the following holds:*

- (1) $x \in \mathbf{V}^k(G) \cap \mathbf{B}^k(G - y)$ and $y \in \mathbf{V}^k(G) \cap \mathbf{B}^k(G - x)$;
- (2) $x \in \mathbf{V}^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{B}^k(G - x) - \mathbf{V}^k(G)$;
- (3) $x \in \mathbf{B}^k(G - y) - \mathbf{V}^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{V}^k(G)$;
- (4) $x, y \notin \mathbf{V}^k(G)$ and $|\{x, y\} \cap \mathbf{Fi}^k(G)| \leq 1$;
- (5) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_s^k(G) \cap \mathbf{G}^k(G - x)$ for some $s \in \{0, 1\}$;
- (6) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_s^k(G) \cap \mathbf{G}^k(G - y)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$ for some $s \in \{0, 1\}$;
- (7) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_q^k(G)$ for some $q \geq 2$;
- (8) $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_q^k(G)$ and $y \in \mathbf{Fi}_0^k(G)$ for some $q \geq 2$;
- (9) there is a γ^k -set of G which is a k -dependent set of $G + xy$ and one of the (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Theorem 2.7 holds.

Corollary 2.9. *Let x and y be two nonadjacent vertices in a graph G . If $x \in \mathbf{B}^k(G)$ then $\gamma^k(G + xy) = \gamma^k(G)$.*

Proof. If $y \notin \mathbf{V}^k(G)$ then the result follows by Theorem 2.8(4). If $y \in \mathbf{V}^k(G)$ then by Proposition 2.1, $x \in \mathbf{B}^k(G - y)$ and the result now follows by Theorem 2.8(3). \square

Let $\mu \in \{\gamma, i\}$. A graph G is edge- μ -critical if $\mu(G + e) < \mu(G)$ for every edge e missing from G . These concepts were introduced by Sumner and Blich [10] and Ao and MacGillivray [6, Chapter 16] respectively. Here we define a graph G to be edge- γ^k -critical if $\gamma^k(G + e) \neq \gamma^k(G)$ for every edge e of the complement of G . Relating edge addition to vertex removal, Sumner and Blich [10] and Ao and MacGillivray showed that $\mathbf{V}_+^k(G)$ is empty for $k = \Delta(G)$ and $k = 0$ respectively. Furthermore Favaron, Sumner and Wojcicka [3] showed that if $\mathbf{V}_0^{\Delta(G)}(G) \neq \emptyset$ then $\langle \mathbf{V}_0^{\Delta(G)}(G), G \rangle$ is complete. In general, for edge- γ^k -critical graphs the following holds.

Theorem 2.10. *Let G be an edge- γ^k -critical graph. Then*

- (1) $V(G) = \mathbf{Fi}_{-1}^k(G) \cup \mathbf{Fr}^k(G)$ and if $\mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G) \neq \emptyset$ then $\langle \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G), G \rangle$ is complete;
- (2) $\gamma^k(G + e) < \gamma^k(G)$ for every edge e missing from G .

Proof. (1) If $\gamma^k(G) = 1$ then obviously G is complete and the result is trivial. Assume $\gamma^k(G) \geq 2$. Let $x, y \in \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)$ and $xy \notin E(G)$. Then by Theorem 2.8(4) it follows $\gamma^k(G + xy) = \gamma^k(G)$ - a contradiction. By Corollary 2.9, $\mathbf{B}^k(G) = \emptyset$. Assume $x \in \mathbf{Fi}_q^k(G)$ for some $q \geq 0$. Let M be any γ^k -set of G . Hence there is $y \in pn[x, M] - \{x\}$ - otherwise $M - \{x\}$ becomes a γ^k -set of $G - x$, which implies $x \in \mathbf{V}^k(G)$. Since $pn[x, M] \cap \mathbf{V}^k(G) = \emptyset$ (by Proposition 2.1 when $q \geq 1$ and Lemma 2.6 when $q = 0$), $\mathbf{B}^k(G) = \emptyset$ and $y \notin M$, we have $y \in \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)$. Let M_1 be a γ^k -set of G and $y \in M_1$. Then there is $z \in (pn[x, M_1] - \{x\}) \cap \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)$. Hence $y, z \in \mathbf{Fr}_0^k(G)$ and $yz \notin E(G)$ - a contradiction. Thus $\mathbf{Fi}^k(G) = \mathbf{Fi}_{-1}^k(G)$ and the result follows.

(2) Immediately follows by (1) and Theorem 2.7. \square

§3. OPEN PROBLEMS

- Characterize/study the following classes of graphs.
(We use acronyms as follows: C represents changing; U : unchanging; V : vertex; E : edge; R : removal; A : addition.)

$$(CVR)^k \quad \gamma^k(G - v) \neq \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } v \in V(G);$$

$$(CER)^k \quad \gamma^k(G - e) \neq \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } e \in E(G);$$

$$(CEA)^k \quad \gamma^k(G + e) \neq \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } e \in E(\overline{G});$$

$$(UVR)^k \quad \gamma^k(G - v) = \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } v \in V(G);$$

$$(UER)^k \quad \gamma^k(G - e) = \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } e \in E(G);$$

$$(CEA)^k \quad \gamma^k(G + e) = \gamma^k(G) \text{ for all } e \in E(\overline{G}).$$

Note that Chapter 5 [5] surveys the results of studies attempting to characterize the graphs G in the six classes above provided $k = \Delta(G)$. Additional facts on classes $(CEA)^{\Delta(G)}$ and $(CVR)^{\Delta(G)}$ can be found in [6, Chapter 16] and [9]. Some relationships among these six classes are established by Haynes [5, pp. 150–153] and Haynes and Henning [7].

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Vladimir Samodivkin
Department of Mathematics, UACEG
1046 Sofia, Bulgaria
E-mail: vlsam_fte@uacg.bg