

Cycles Containing Many Vertices of Subsets in 1-Tough Graphs with Large Degree Sums¹

Jianping Li²

Institute of Math. and Department of Math., Yunnan University
Kunming 650091, Yunnan, P.R.China.

Abstract. Let G be a graph of order n and X a given vertex subset of G . Define the parameters $\alpha(X) = \max\{|S| \mid S \text{ is an independent set of vertices of the subgraph } G[X] \text{ in } G \text{ induced by } X\}$ and $\sigma_k(X) = \min\{\sum_{i=1}^k d(x_i) \mid \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\} \text{ is an independent vertex set in } G[X]\}$. A cycle C of G is called X -longest if no cycle of G contains more vertices of X than C . A cycle C of G is called X -dominating if all neighbors of each vertex of $X \setminus V(C)$ are on C . In particular, G is X -cyclable if G has an X -cycle, i.e., a cycle containing all vertices of X . Our main result is as follows: If G is 1-tough and $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then G has an X -longest cycle C such that C is an X -dominating cycle and $|V(C) \cap X| \geq \min\{|X|, |X| + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) - \alpha(X)\}$, which extends the well known results of D. Bauer et al [2] in terms of X -cyclability. Finally, if G is 2-tough and $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then G is X -cyclable.

Keywords: (X -)longest cycle, (X -)dominating cycle, hamiltonian graph, vertex degree, large degree sums.

AMS Subject Classifications(1990): 05C38, 05C45, 05C35.

¹Research was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Yunnan Province. Part of the work was done while the author was visiting Institute of Systems Science, Academia Sinica, P.R. China.

²Current address: L.R.I., URA 410 du CNRS, Bât.490, Université de Paris-Sud, 91405-Orsay, France. *Email: jpli@lri.fr

§1. Results

We use [4] for terminology and notations not defined here and consider simple graph only.

Let G be a graph of order n . $X \subseteq V(G)$ and $\omega(G)$ denote the number of components of graph G . As introduced by Chvátal [6], a graph G is t -tough if $|S| \geq t \cdot \omega(G \setminus S)$ for any $S \subset V(G)$ with $\omega(G \setminus S) > 1$. The toughness of G , denoted by $\tau(G)$, is the maximum value of t for which G is t -tough ($\tau(K_n) = \infty$ for all $n \geq 1$). A cycle C of G is called X -longest if no cycle of G contains more vertices of X than C , and by $c(X)$ we denote the number of vertices of X in X -longest cycle. A cycle C of G is called X -dominating if all neighbors of each vertex of $X \setminus V(C)$ are on C . We say that G is X -cyclable if G has an X -cycle, i.e., a cycle containing all vertices of X . If $X = V(G)$, instead of $V(G)$ -longest cycle and $V(G)$ -cyclability, we use the common terms hamiltonian cycle and Hamiltonian, and $c(G)$ instead of $c(V(G))$, respectively. We denote by $\alpha(X) = \max\{|S| \mid S \text{ is an independent set of vertices of the subgraph } G[X] \text{ in } G \text{ induced by } X\}$. More generally, for $k \leq \alpha(X)$ we denote by $\sigma_k(X)$ the maximum value of the degree sums (in G) of any k pairwise nonadjacent vertices of X ; for $k > \alpha(X)$, we set $\sigma_k(X) = k(n - \alpha(X))$. We write α and $\sigma_k(G)$ instead of $\alpha(V(G))$ and $\sigma_k(V(G))$, respectively.

Two classical results in hamiltonian graph theory are the following.

Theorem 1. [10] Let G be a graph of order $n \geq 3$ with $\sigma_2(G) \geq n$, then G is Hamiltonian.

Theorem 2. [7] Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ with $\sigma_2(G) \geq n - 4$, then G is Hamiltonian.

In [2], D. Bauer et al obtained the further extension of Theorem 2.

Theorem 3. [2] Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ with $\sigma_3(G) \geq n$, then $c(G) \geq \min\{n, n + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(G) - \alpha(G)\}$.

Theorem 3 implies several known results. For details, readers are referred to the surveys of D. Bauer et al in [1] and [2].

We note that, the proof of Theorem 3 relies on the following fact: if G is 1-tough and $\sigma_3(G) \geq n$, then every longest cycle is dominating; Moreover, if G is nonhamiltonian, G contains a longest cycle C with $\mu(C) = \max\{d(v) \mid v \in V(G) \setminus V(C)\} \geq \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(G)$.

Recently, H.J. Broersma, H. Li, J.P. Li, F. Tian and H.J. Veldman [5] obtained some results involving given subsets.

Theorem 4. [5] Let G be a 2-connected graph of order $n \geq 3$ and let $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\sigma_3(X) \geq n + 2$, then $c(X) \geq \min\{|X|, |X| + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) - \alpha(X)\}$.

Motivated by Theorem 4, we can obtain the following main result, which extends the some results of D. Bauer et al [2] in terms of X -cyclability.

Theorem 5. Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ and $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then G contains an X -longest cycle C which is X -dominating.

The proof of Theorem 5 is postponed to section 2. For a note, under the conditions of Theorem 5, we easily obtain that: $X \setminus V(C)$ is an independent set for every X -longest cycle C .

Theorem 5 admits the following corollary, which extends the theorem of Bigalke and Jung [3] in terms of X -cyclability.

Corollary 6 . Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ and $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\delta(X) \geq \frac{1}{3}n$, then G contains an X -longest cycle C which is X -dominating.

Next key Lemma is the basis for many of the results that follows.

Lemma 7. Let G be a graph of order n with $\delta(X) \geq 2$ and $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$. Let G contain an X -longest cycle C which is X -dominating. If $x_0 \in X \setminus V(C)$ and $A = N(x_0)$, then $(X \setminus V(C)) \cup A^X$ is an independent set of vertices, where A^X contains, for each $v \in A$, the first vertex of $X \cap V(C)$ succeeding v on C (in a fixed orientation of C).

We note that, a weak version of Lemma 7 can be found in J.P. Li [8]. For convenience, we give the full argument in section 2.

Lemma 7 has many applications. The next Theorem is obtained by combining Lemma 7 with Theorem 5. An outline proof of Theorem 8 is given in section 2.

Theorem 8. Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ and let $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then $c(X) \geq \min\{|X|, |X| + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) - \alpha(X)\}$.

Theorem 8 admits the following result, which extends one result of Bigalke and Jung [3] in terms of X -cyclability.

Theorem 9. Let G be a 1-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ and let $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $\sigma_3(X) \geq \max\{n, 3\alpha(X) - 2\}$, then G is X -cyclable.

Proof: By assumption, $\sigma_3(X) \geq \max\{n, 3\alpha(X) - 2\}$, then $\sigma_3(X) \geq 3\alpha(X) - 2$. Also, by Theorem 8, $c(X) \geq \min\{|X|, |X| + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) - \alpha(X)\} \geq \{|X|, |X| - \frac{2}{3}\}$. Since $c(X)$ is an integer, we have $c(X) = |X|$, i.e., G is X -cyclable.

We now turn our attention to graph with $t(G) = \tau \geq 1$. For $X \subseteq V(G)$, we easily get $\alpha(X) \leq \alpha(G) \leq \frac{n}{\tau+1}$, then Theorem 8 immediately implies our next result.

Corollary 10. Let G be a graph of order $n \geq 3$ and let $X \subseteq V(G)$ with $t(G) = \tau \geq 1$. If $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then $c(X) \geq \min\{|X|, |X| + \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) - \frac{n}{\tau+1}\}$.

A special case of Corollary 10 is the following result.

Corollary 11. Let G be a 2-tough graph of order $n \geq 3$ and $X \subseteq V(G)$. If $\sigma_3(X) \geq n$, then G is X -cyclable.

§2. Proofs

In order to prove our main results, we introduce some additional terminology and notations.

Let C a cycle of graph G . We denote by \vec{C} the cycle with a given orientation, and by \overleftarrow{C} the cycle with the reverse orientation. If $u, v \in V(C)$, then $u\vec{C}v$ denotes the consecutive vertices of C from u to v in the direction specified by \vec{C} . The same vertices, in reverse order, are given by $v\overleftarrow{C}u$. We will consider $u\vec{C}v$ and $v\overleftarrow{C}u$ both as paths and as vertex sets. We use u^+ to denote the successor of u on \vec{C} and u^- to denote its predecessor. If $S \subseteq V(C)$, then $S^+ = \{v^+ | v \in S\}$ and $S^- = \{v^- | v \in S\}$.

Proof of Theorem 5. Let G satisfy the conditions of Theorem 5. Assume that no X -longest cycle of G is X -dominating. Choose a cycle C and a path P satisfying the following conditions:

- (a). C is an X -longest cycle;
- (b). Subject to (a), $|M(C)|$ is minimal, where $M(C)$ denotes the set of all edges of $G \setminus V(C)$ which are incident with at least one vertex of X . (Here, $M(C) \neq \emptyset$ by assumption);
- (c). P connects two vertices v_r and v_s of C , is internally disjoint from C and contains a vertex $x_0 \in X$ incident with an edge e_0 of $M(C)$;
- (d). Subject to (a), (b) and (c), let H be the subgraph of $G \setminus V(C)$, which contains x_0, e_0 and $|V(H)|$ is minimal.

Set $R = V(G) \setminus V(C)$ and $A = N(H)$. We give an orientation of C , and let $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{|A|}$ be the vertices of A , occurring on \vec{C} in consecutive order. So $v_r, v_s \in A$. Hence, we obtain the assertion:

- (1) for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, either $v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^- \cap X \neq \emptyset$ or there exists a vertex $u' \in v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-$ such that u' is adjacent to a vertex $w' \in X \setminus V(C)$.

Assuming the contrary to (1), i.e., $v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^- \cap X = \emptyset$ and there exists no vertex $u' \in v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-$ such that u' is adjacent to a vertex $w' \in X \setminus V(C)$, we consider the cycle $C' = v_i H v_{i+1} \vec{C} v_i$, we easily get either $|V(C') \cap X| > |V(C) \cap X|$ or $|V(C') \cap X| = |V(C) \cap X|$ which contradicts to the condition

(b) or (d). This leads to a contradiction to the choice of C . Indeed, the assertion (1) holds.

Let $u_{r,1}$ be the first vertex on $v_r^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}^-$ such that either $u_{r,1} \in X$ or $u_{r,1}$ is adjacent to a vertex $u_{r,2} \in X \setminus V(C)$. Set $x_r = u_{r,1}$ if $u_{r,1} \in X$ and $x_r = u_{r,2}$ otherwise. Define $u_{s,1} \in v_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}^-$ and $u_{r,2}, x_s$ similarly. We have that

$$(2) \quad x_i \neq x_j, x_i x_j \notin E(G) \text{ and } N(x_i) \cap N(x_j) \cap R = \emptyset \quad i, j \in \{0, r, s\} \\ \text{and } i \neq j.$$

otherwise we contradict (a) or (d). A similar argument shows that

$$(3) \quad x_i v \notin E(G) \text{ whenever } v \in v_j^+ \overrightarrow{C} u_{j,1} \cup \{x_j\}, i \in \{0, r, s\}, j \in \{r, s\} \\ \text{and } i \neq j.$$

For any $v_i \in A \setminus \{v_r, v_s\}$, set $u_{i,1} = v_i^+$. Let $u_{i,2} = u_{i,1}^+$ if $N(u_{i,1}) \cap R = \emptyset$, otherwise let $u_{i,2}$ be an arbitrary vertex in $N(u_{i,1}) \cap R$. Then we obtain

$$(4) \quad x_r(x_s) \neq u_{i,2}, u_{i,2} \neq u_{j,2} \quad (i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\} \text{ and } i \neq j),$$

otherwise contradicting (a) or (d). Furthermore, we get that

$$(5) \quad x_k u_{im} \notin E(G) \quad (i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\}; k=r, s; m=1, 2)$$

We can also obtain the following observations (otherwise contradicting the choice of C):

$$(6) \quad \text{if } v \in u_{r,1}^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_s^- \text{ and } x_s v \in E(G), \text{ then } x_r v^+ \notin E(G);$$

$$(7) \quad \text{if } v \in u_{s,1}^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_r^- \text{ and } x_r v \in E(G), \text{ then } x_s v^+ \notin E(G).$$

Let $U = V(C) \cup \{x_r, x_s\} \cup \{u_{i,2} | i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\}\}$. We define a bijection $f: U \rightarrow U$ as follows:

$$(8) \quad \text{if } x_i \neq u_{i,1}, \text{ then } f(u_{i,1}) = x_i \text{ and } f(x_i) = u_{i,1}^+ \quad (i = r, s);$$

$$(9) \quad \text{if } u_{i,2} \notin V(C), \text{ then } f(u_{i,1}) = u_{i,2} \text{ and } f(u_{i,2}) = u_{i,1}^+ \\ (i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\});$$

$$(10) \quad \text{if } f(v) \text{ is not yet defined as above, then } f(v) = v^+.$$

We consider the following sets:

$$A(x_r) = \{v \in (u_{r,1} \overrightarrow{C} u_{s,1}^- \cup \{x_r\}) \cup \{u_{i,2} | i \in \{r+1, r+2, \dots, s-1\}\} \\ | x_r f(v) \in E(G)\}$$

$$A(x_s) = \{v \in (u_{r,1} \overrightarrow{C} u_{s,1}^- \cup \{x_r\}) \cup \{u_{i,2} | i \in \{r+1, r+2, \dots, s-1\}\} \\ | x_s v \in E(G)\}$$

$$B(x_r) = \{v \in (u_{s,1} \overrightarrow{C} u_{r,1}^- \cup \{x_s\}) \cup \{u_{j,2} | j \in \{s+1, s+2, \dots, r-1\}\} \\ | x_r v \in E(G)\}$$

$$B(x_s) = \{v \in (u_{s,1} \overrightarrow{C} u_{r,1}^- \cup \{x_s\}) \cup \{u_{j,2} | j \in \{s+1, s+2, \dots, r-1\}\} \\ | x_s f(v) \in E(G)\}$$

$$D(x_i) = \{v \in V(G) \setminus U | x_i v \in E(G)\} \quad i \in \{0, r, s\}.$$

Set $AB(x_r, x_s) = A(x_r) \cup A(x_s) \cup B(x_r) \cup B(x_s)$ and $D(x_r, x_s) = D(x_r) \cup D(x_s)$. Noting that f is bijection, we obtain

$$d(x_i) = |A_i| + |B_i| + |D_i| \quad (i = r, s)$$

and

$$d(x_0) = |A \cap N(x_0)| + |D(x_0)|.$$

Observing (2) to (7), we have that the sets $A(x_r)$, $A(x_s)$, $B(x_r)$, $B(x_s)$, $D(x_0)$, $D(x_r)$ and $D(x_s)$ are pairwise disjoint, and the x_0, u_{i1} ($i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\}$) are in none of these sets. Noting that $x_0, x_r, x_s \in X$, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_3(X) &\leq d(x_0) + d(x_r) + d(x_s) \\
 &\leq |A \cap N(x_0)| + |D(x_0)| + |A(x_r)| + |B(x_r)| + |D(x_r)| \\
 &\quad + |A(x_s)| + |B(x_s)| + |D(x_s)| \\
 (11) \quad &= |A \cap N(x_0)| + |D(x_0)| + |AB(x_r, x_s)| + |D(x_r, x_s)| \\
 &\leq |A| + (|H| - 1) + (|V(C)| - (|A| - 2)) \\
 &\quad + (|V(G)| - |V(C)| - |V(H)|) \\
 &= n + 1
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, since x_0, x_r and x_s are three pairwise nonadjacent vertices of X , we get

$$(12) \quad d(x_0) + d(x_r) + d(x_s) \geq \sigma_3(X) \geq n$$

It follows that x_0 , and hence every vertex of $X \cap V(H)$, is adjacent to all but at most one vertex in A . This implies the existence of a (v_i, v_j) -path $P_{i,j}$ with all internal vertices in H for all $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$ with $i \neq j$, such that $P_{i,j}$ contains at least one vertex in $X \cap V(H)$ and either one edge in $M(C)$ or is adjacent to at least one edge in $M(C)$. Again using (11), we obtain that at most one of the following assertions holds:

- (13) (i). at most one vertex u_{i1} of $\{u_{11}, u_{21}, \dots, u_{|A|1}\} \setminus \{u_{r1}, u_{s1}\}$ satisfying $u_{i1} \notin X$;
- (ii). at most one vertex of $V(G) \setminus (V(C) \cup V(H))$ is not in $D(x_r, x_s)$.

Without loss of generality, we may assume that $u_{i1} \in X$ for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, s\}$ (otherwise we easily obtain a contradiction in the similar argument below).

So we set $x_i = u_{i1}$ for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$. For each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, if $v \in x_i \overrightarrow{C} v_{i+1}^-$ such that $x_i v \in E(G)$, let u'_{i1} be the first vertex on $v^- \overleftarrow{C} x_i$ such that $u'_{i1} \in X$ or u'_{i1} is adjacent to a vertex $u'_{i2} \in X \setminus V(C)$. Set $x'_i = u'_{i1}$ if $u'_{i1} \in X$ and $x'_i = u'_{i2}$ otherwise. We call that x'_i is an i -vertex respect to v , maybe $x_i = x'_i$. In particular, x_i is an i -vertex.

If x'_r is an r -vertex and x'_s is an s -vertex, substitute x'_r and x'_s for x_r and x_s , the observations (2) through (12) still hold. Moreover, observations (2) through (12) actually hold for arbitrary r and s with $1 \leq r < s \leq |A|$. From (11) and (12), we also deduce the follows ($1 \leq r < s \leq |A|$):

- (14) if x'_r is an r -vertex and x'_s is an s -vertex, then at most one of the following assertions holds:

(i). at most one vertex of $V(C) \setminus \{u_{i1} | i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|, i \neq j\}\}$ is not in $AB(x'_r, x'_s)$;

(ii). at most one vertex of $V(G) \setminus (V(C) \cup V(H))$ is not in $D(x'_r, x'_s)$.

Without loss of generality, we may assume that $x'_r, x'_s \in V(C) \cap X$.

Now, we give some notations. For any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, let w_{i1} be the last vertex on $v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-$ such that either $w_{i1} \in X$ or w_{i1} is adjacent to a vertex $w_{i2} \in X \setminus V(C)$. Set $y_i = w_{i1}$ if $w_{i1} \in X$ and $y_i = w_{i2}$ otherwise. With the similar arguments as above (in the given reverse orientation of C), we have that $y_i \in V(C) \cap X$ for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$.

For $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, we can obtain the next three observations.

(15) if $v \in v_{s+1}^+ \vec{C} v_s^-$ and $x_s v \in E(G)$, then $y_s v^- \notin E(G)$, otherwise we easily construct an X -longer cycle than C .

(16) if $v \in v_{s+1}^+ \vec{C} v_s^-$ and $x_s v \in E(G)$, then

(i). if $N(v_{s+1}^-) \cap R = \emptyset$ or $v_{s+1}^- \notin X$, then $v_{s+1}^- v^- \notin E(G)$;

(ii). if $N(v^-) \cap R = \emptyset$ or $v^- \notin X$, then $y_s v^- \notin E(G)$.

otherwise contradicting assumptions (a) to (d).

(17) if $v \in v_{s+1}^- \vec{C} v_s^+$ and $x_s v \in E(G)$, then

(i). $y_s v^+ \notin E(G)$;

(ii). if $N(v_{s+1}^-) \cap R = \emptyset$ or $v_{s+1}^- \notin X$, then $v_{s+1}^- v^+ \notin E(G)$;

(iii). if $N(v^+) \cap R = \emptyset$ or $v^+ \notin X$, then $y_s v^+ \notin E(G)$.

otherwise contradicting assumptions (a) to (d).

Using observations as above, we now derive contradictions in all cases distinguished below. If $v \in V(G)$, then by $N'(v)$ we denote the set of vertex x such that there is a (v, x) -path of length at least 1 with all internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$. In particular, $N(v) \subseteq N'(v)$. For $S \subseteq V(G)$, set $N'(S) = \cup_{i \in S} N'(v) \setminus S$. (Noting $x_i \in X \cap V(C)$ for any $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$).

Case 1. For all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, $N'(v_i^+ \vec{C} x_i) \cap V(C) \subseteq v_i \vec{C} v_{i+1} \cup A$ and $N'(y_i \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-) \cap V(C) \subseteq v_i \vec{C} v_{i+1} \cup A$.

Suppose there exist integer r, s and vertices x, y such that $1 \leq r < s \leq |A|$, $x \in x_r^+ \vec{C} v_{r+1}^-$, $y \in x_s^+ \vec{C} v_{s+1}^-$ and $xy \in E(G)$. Since by the hypotheses of Case 1 $x_s x, x_r y \notin E(G)$, we get either $x_r x^+$ or $x_s y^+$ is in $E(G)$, otherwise $x, y \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14). Without loss of generality, we assume $x_r x^+ \in E(G)$. So we get $x_s y^+ \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C . Hence we obtain

(i). If exists $y' \in N(y^+) \cap R$, then $y' \notin D(x_s)$ (otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C). So $y, y' \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14).

(ii) . If $N(y^+) \cap R = \emptyset$, then $x_s y^{++} \notin E(G)$ (otherwise contradicting assumptions (a) to (d)). So $y, y^+ \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14).

This contradiction with (14) shows that in the case no edge, and similarly no path with all internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$, joins two vertices in different sets of the collection $\{v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^- | 1 \leq i \leq |A|\}$, then $\omega(G \setminus A) \geq |A| + 1$, contradicting the fact that G is 1-tough.

Case 2. For some $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, $N'(v_i^+ \vec{C} x_i) \cap V(C) \not\subseteq v_i \vec{C} v_{i+1} \cup A$
 or $N'(y_i \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-) \cap V(C) \not\subseteq v_i \vec{C} v_{i+1} \cup A$.

Assume, e.g. $z_r \in N'(v_s^+ \vec{C} x_s)$, where $z_r \in v_r^+ \vec{C} v_{r+1}^-$, $r < s$ and $|v_r^+ \vec{C} z_r|$ is minimum. Moreover, we have $z_r \in x_r^+ \vec{C} v_{r+1}^-$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C , a contradiction. For convenience, we may assume $x_s z_r \in E(G)$, in the other cases we easily get a contradiction in the similar manner.

By (3), $z_r \neq x_r$. Let z be a vertex in $x_r^+ \vec{C} z_r^-$ with $x_r z \in E(G)$ such that $|z \vec{C} z_r|$ is minimum. Let x_z be the r -vertex respect to z . For convenience we suppose $x_z \in X \cap V(C)$, maybe $x_z = x_r$. Either $z = z_r^-$ or $z = z_r$, otherwise $z, z^+ \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14). So we distinguish two subclasses.

Case 2.1. $z = z_r^-$

In the case, $x_r z_r^+ \notin E(G)$. Moreover, we have

(18). $x_r z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$.

In the fact, suppose $x_r z_r^{++} \in E(G)$. If $N(z_r^+) \cap R = \emptyset$, we get a cycle $C' = v_r P_{r,s} v_s \overleftarrow{C} z_r^+ x_r \vec{C} z_r x_s \vec{C} v_r$, which satisfies either $|V(C') \cap X| > |V(C) \cap X|$ or $|V(C') \cap X| = |V(C) \cap X|$ with $|M(C')| < |M(C)|$, contradicting the choice of C . If $z^- \in N(z_r^+) \cap R$, then $x_r z^-, x_s z^- \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle C' than C . Hence $z, z^- \notin AB(x_r, x_s) \cup D(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14). Indeed, $x_r z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$.

By (15) and (17), $y_s z_r^+, y_s z_r^- \notin E(G)$. Hence $x_s y'_s \notin E(G)$ for any $y'_s \in y_s^+ \vec{C} v_{s+1}$, i.e., y_s is not an s -vertex, otherwise $z_r^-, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_r, y_s)$, contradicting (14). Thus $x_r y_s \in E(G)$, otherwise $z, y_s \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14).

Note that $x_r z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$, we have $x_s z_r^+ \in E(G)$, otherwise $z, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, contradicting (14). With the similar argument as (18), we have $x_r z_r^{+++} \notin E(G)$. Using inductive method, we obtain $z_r \vec{C} v_{r+1} \subseteq N(x_s)$ and $z_r \vec{C} v_{r+1} \cap N(x_r) = \emptyset$, otherwise contradicting (14).

Also note that $y_s v_{r+1}^- \notin E(G)$ and $y_s \in X$ ($x_s \neq y_s$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C), there exists $x'_s \in X \cap x_s^+ \vec{C} y_s$ satisfying $z_r \vec{C} v_{r+1} \not\subseteq N(x'_s)$. Choose that x'_s is the first vertex in $X \cap x_s^+ \vec{C} y_s$ satisfying such condition. Moreover, we may assume that no vertex on $x_s^+ \vec{C} (x'_s)^-$ is not

adjacent to any vertex $x \in X \setminus V(C)$, otherwise we replace x by x'_s and also get a contradiction with the similar manner. For convenience, we also assume $x_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} (x'_s)^- \cap X = \emptyset$. Note that, in this case, if we replace x_s by x'_s , then observations (2)-(18) still hold. Hence there exists exactly one vertex on $z_r \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}$ which is not a neighbor of x'_s , otherwise there exist $w, w' \in z_r \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}$ which are not neighbors of x'_s , then $w, w' \notin AB(x_r, x'_s)$, contradicting (14). So we may assume that w is only one vertex on $z_r \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}$ which is not a neighbor of x'_s .

Suppose $zx'_s \in E(G)$, then $x_2 y_s^+ \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle $C' = x_2 y_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_r P_{r,r+1} \overrightarrow{C} x_s v_{r+1}^- \overrightarrow{C} z x'_s \overrightarrow{C} y_s x_r \overrightarrow{C} x_2$, a contradiction. If $y_s^+ x'_s \in E(G)$, then $z_r^-, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_r, y_s)$, contradicting (14). If $y_s^+ x'_s \notin E(G)$, then $y_s, w \notin AB(x_2, x'_s)$ (note $y_s x_2 \notin E(G)$ in the case, otherwise the cycle $x'_s z \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}^- x_s \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1} P_{r+1,s+1} v_{s+1} \overrightarrow{C} x_2 y_s \overrightarrow{C} x'_s$ contradicts the choice of C), contradicting (14). Indeed $zx'_s \notin E(G)$. Hence $w, z \notin AB(x_r, x'_s)$, a contradiction.

Case 2.2. $z = z_r$

Case 2.2.1 $x_s v \notin E(G)$ for any $v \in y_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}$

For any vertex $v \in y_s \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}^-$, we have $x_2 v \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C . In particular $x_2 y_s, x_2 v_{s+1}^- \notin E(G)$. Hence, by (14), $y_s = v_{s+1}^-$. Moreover, we get (19). $x_2 y_s^- \notin E(G)$.

In the fact, suppose $x_2 y_s^- \in E(G)$. If there exists $y' \in N(y_s) \setminus V(C)$, then $y' x_s \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C . Hence $y_s, y' \notin AB(x_2, x_s) \cup D(x_2, x_s)$, contradicting (14). This shows that $N(y_s) \subseteq V(C)$. So we get the cycle $C' = x_2 y_s^- \overrightarrow{C} x_s z_r \overrightarrow{C} v_s P_{s,s+1} v_{s+1} \overrightarrow{C} x_2$ such that $|V(C') \cap X| > |V(C) \cap X|$ or $|V(C') \cap X| = |V(C) \cap X|$ with $|M(C')| < |M(C)|$, a contradiction. Indeed $x_2 y_s^- \notin E(G)$.

Thus $y_s x_s \in E(G)$, otherwise $y_s, y_s^- \notin A(x_2, x_s)$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $y_s^- \in X$ (otherwise we find an s -vertex respect to y_s , say y'_s , and substitute y'_s for y_s^-), i.e., y_s^- is an s -vertex respect to y_s .

It is clear to see $x_2 z_r^+ \notin E(G)$. Moreover, we get

(20). $x_2 z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$.

In the fact, suppose $x_2 z_r^{++} \in E(G)$. If $N(z_r^+) \subseteq V(C)$, we get an cycle $C' = v_s \overrightarrow{C} z_r^{++} x_2 \overrightarrow{C} x_r z_r x_s \overrightarrow{C} v_r P_{r,s} v_s$ such that $|V(C') \cap X| > |V(C) \cap X|$ or $|V(C') \cap X| = |V(C) \cap X|$ with $|M(C')| < |M(C)|$, a contradiction. If there exists $y \in N(z_r^+) \setminus V(C)$, then $yx_r, yx_s \notin E(G)$, otherwise we easily get an X -longer cycle than C . Then $y_s, y \notin AB(x_2, x_s)$, contradicting (14). Indeed, $x_2 z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$.

Recalling that $x_2 y_s \notin E(G)$, we conclude that $x_s z_r^+ \in E(G)$, since otherwise $z_r^+, y_s \notin A(x_2, x_s)$. Noting that $N(y_s) \subseteq V(C)$ (otherwise if there exists $y \in N(y_s) \setminus V(C)$, then $y, y_s \notin AB(x_2, x_r) \cup D(x_2, x_r)$), we get

$y_s^- z_r, y_s^- z_r^+ \notin E(G)$. It follows that $z_r, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_z, y_s^-)$, a contradiction.
 Case 2.2.2 $x_s v \in E(G)$ for some $v \in y_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}$

In the case, without loss of generality, we may assume $x_s v_{s+1} \in E(G)$, i.e., y_s is an s -vertex respect to v_{s+1} . It is clear to see $x_z z_r^+ \notin E(G)$. Moreover, we get

(21). $y_s z_r \in E(G)$.

In the fact, suppose $y_s z_r \notin E(G)$. If there exists $z \in N(z_r^+) \cap R$, then we get $z \notin D(x_z, y_s)$, otherwise, we easily get an X -longer cycle than C , so $z, z_r \notin AB(x_z, y_s)$, contradicting (14). If $N(z_r^+) \cap R = \emptyset$, we get $z_r^+ \notin AB(x_z, y_s)$, also $x_z z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get a cycle $C' = v_s \overrightarrow{C} z_r^{++} x_z \overrightarrow{C} x_r x_s \overrightarrow{C} v_r P_{r,s} v_s$ with $|V(C') \cap X| \geq |V(C) \cap X|$ and $|M(C')| < |M(C)|$, contradicting the choice of C . So $z_r, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_z, y_s)$, contradicting (14). Indeed $y_s z_r \in E(G)$.

Now, for any $v \in y_r \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}$, we have $x_z v \notin E(G)$, otherwise the cycle $x_z v \overrightarrow{C} z_r y_s \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1} P_{r+1,s+1} v_{s+1} \overrightarrow{C} x_z$ is an X -longer than C . It is clear that $y_s v \notin E(G)$ for any $v \in y_r \overrightarrow{C} v_{r+1}$. Below, we will show

(22). $y_r^- = z_r^+$.

If there exists $z \in N(z_r^+) \cap R$, we have $y_r = v_{r+1}^-$, otherwise $z, y_r \notin AB(x_z, y_s) \cup D(x_z, y_z)$. So $N(y_r) \cap R = \emptyset$, otherwise if there exists $y' \in N(y_r) \cap R$, then $z, y' \notin D(x_z, y_s)$ (if $z = y'$, we have $y_r^- y_s \notin E(G)$, then $z, y_r^- \notin AB(x_z, y_s) \cup D(x_z, y_s)$), contradicting (14). Moreover, $y_r^- y_s \notin E(G)$, otherwise the cycle $y_s y_r^- \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1} P_{s+1,r+1} \overrightarrow{C} y_s$ contradicting to the choice of C . Hence $z, y_r^- \notin AB(x_z, y_s)$, a contradiction. If $N(z_r^+) \cap R = \emptyset$, we have $x_z z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$. As the similar argument above, we get $y_r^- y_s \notin E(G)$. It follows that $z_r^+, y_r^- \notin AB(x_z, y_s)$. Hence, by (14), $y_r^- = z_r^+$.

We now show that

(23). x_s connects to all vertices in $x_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}$ by some paths whose internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$.

Assuming the contrary, let v be the vertex in $x_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}$ such that x_s is not connected to v by a path whose internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$ and $|v \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}|$ is minimum. Then $v \in x_s^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{s+1}^-$ and $x_s v^+ \in E(G)$. We let $v^* = v^-$ if $N(v) \cap R = \emptyset$ and v^* be an arbitrary vertex in $N(v) \setminus V(C)$, let $z = z_r^+$ if $N(z_r^+) \cap R = \emptyset$ and z be an arbitrary vertex in $N(z_r^+) \setminus V(C)$. Hence, we easily obtain $v^*, z \notin AB(x_r, x_s)$, otherwise we get a cycle contradicting the choice of C' (note $y_s z_r \in E(G)$ by (21)). This contradiction proves (23).

Similarly we have

(24). x_r connects to all vertices in $x_r^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_r$ by some paths whose internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$.

By (21), we have $y_s z_r \in E(G)$, hence $x_z z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$, otherwise we get an X -longer cycle than C . If there exists $y \in N(y_r^-) \setminus V(C)$, then

$yy_s \cdot y_r^- y_s \notin E(G)$, hence $y, y_r^- \notin AB(x_z, y_s) \cup A(x_z, y_s)$. This shows that $N(y_r^-) \subseteq V(C)$. Moreover, $x_s z_r^{++}(u_s y_r) \notin E(G)$ by (16). Recalling that $x_s z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$, we now note that for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r\}$ the assumption $x_i z_r^+ \in E(G)$ or $x_i z_r^{++} \in E(G)$ leads to a contradiction by applying the above arguments substitute s for i . Thus $x_i z_r^+, x_i z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r\}$. By (20), noting $y_s z_r \in E(G)$ and x_r is r -vertex, we have $x_r z_r^+, x_r z_r^{++} \notin E(G)$. Hence $x_i z_r \in E(G)$ ($i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r\}$), for otherwise $z_r, z_r^+ \notin AB(x_r, x_i)$, contradicting (14). It now follows that (23) remains true if s is replaced by i ($i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r\}$). By (14), $AB(x_r, x_s) = V(C) \setminus (\{z_r\} \cup \{x_j | j \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r, i\}\})$, implying that

$$N'(x_r) \cap V(C) \subseteq v_r^+ \vec{C} z_r \cup A$$

and

$$N'(x_i) \cap V(C) \subseteq v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1} \cup A \cup \{z_r\} \quad (i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\} \setminus \{r\}).$$

Using the properties as above, we conclude that no edge, and similarly no path with all internal vertices in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$, joins two vertices in different sets of the collection $\{v_i^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^- | 1 \leq i \leq |A|, i \neq r\} \cup \{v_r^+ \vec{C} z_r^-\} \cup \{z_r^+ \vec{C} v_{i+1}^-\}$. But then $\omega(G \setminus (A \cup \{z_r\})) \geq |A \cup \{z_r\}| + 1$, our final contradiction. □

Proof of Lemma 7. By assumption, $X \setminus V(C)$ is an independent set in $G[X]$ and a standard argument shows that A^X is an independent set in $G[X]$ since C is a X -longest cycle which is X -dominating. Hence it suffices to show that no vertex in $X \setminus V(C)$ is adjacent to any vertex in A^X .

Let $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{|A|}$ be the vertices of A^X , occurring on \vec{C} . Suppose that exists $x' \in X \setminus V(C)$ such that $x' x_i \in E(G)$ for some $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$. Clearly $x' \neq x_0$ since C is a X -longest cycle. Without loss of generality, we assume that $i = 1$, i.e. $x' x_1 \in E(G)$. We consider following sets of vertices.

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \{v \in x_1 \vec{C} x_{|A|}^- \mid x' v^+ \in E(G)\} \\ A_2 &= \{v \in x_1 \vec{C} x_{|A|}^- \mid x_{|A|} v \in E(G)\} \\ B_1 &= \{v \in x_{|A|} \vec{C} x_1^- \mid x' v \in E(G)\} \\ B_2 &= \{v \in x_{|A|} \vec{C} x_1^- \mid x_{|A|} v^+ \in E(G)\} \\ D &= \{v \in V(G) \setminus V(C) \mid x_{|A|} v \in E(G)\} \end{aligned}$$

Then we get $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$, otherwise, if $v \in A_1 \cap A_2$, we can obtain a X -longer cycle C' than C as follows:

$$v_{|A|} x_0 v_1 \vec{C} x_{|A|} v \vec{C} v^+ x' x_1 \vec{C} v_{|A|} \quad (\text{if } v \in v_{|A|} \vec{C} x_{|A|}^-)$$

or

$$v_{|A|} x_0 v_1 \vec{C} x_{|A|} v \vec{C} x_1 x' v^+ \vec{C} v_{|A|} \quad (\text{if } v \in x_1 \vec{C} v_{|A|}^-)$$

and we get $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$, otherwise, if $v \in B_1 \cap B_2$, we can obtain a X -longer cycle C' than C as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
& v_{|A|}x_0v_1 \overleftarrow{C} v x' x_1 \overrightarrow{C} v_{|A|} \quad (\text{if } v = x_{|A|}) \\
\text{or} \\
& v_{|A|}x_0v_1 \overleftarrow{C} v^+ x_{|A|} \overrightarrow{C} v x' x_1 \overrightarrow{C} v_{|A|} \quad (\text{if } v \in x_{|A|}^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_1^-) \\
\text{or} \\
& v_{|A|}x_0v_1 \overleftarrow{C} x_{|A|} v^+ \overrightarrow{C} v_{|A|} \quad (\text{if } v \in v_1 \overrightarrow{C} x_1^-)
\end{aligned}$$

Since $N(x') = A_1^+ \cup B_1 \cup \{x_1\}$, then $d(x') = |A_1| + |B_1| + 1$. Similarly, we have $d(x_{|A|}) = |D| + |A_2| + |B_2|$. Moreover, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
d(x_0) + d(x') + d(x_{|A|}) &= |A| + |A_1| + |B_1| + 1 + |D| + |A_2| + |B_2| \\
&= |A| + |A_1 \cup A_2| + |B_1 \cup B_2| + |D| + 1
\end{aligned}$$

Clearly, we can obtain the fact that $x_i \notin A_1$ for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A|\}$, otherwise we can find a X -longer cycle C'' than C . Since $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{|A|}$ are independent, then $x_i \notin A_2$ for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |A| - 1\}$. It is easy to see that $v_1 \notin B_1 \cup B_2$, otherwise we can find a X -longer cycle C'' than C . Thus, noting that $x, x', x_{|A|} \in X$, we obtain the following

$$\begin{aligned}
n \leq \sigma_3(X) &\leq d(x_0) + d(x') + d(x_{|A|}) \\
&\leq |A| + (|V(C)| - (|A| - 1) - 1) + (n - (|V(C)| - 2) + 1) \\
&\leq n - 1
\end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. Thus we prove the lemma. \square

Outline Proof of Theorem 8. Let C be an X -longest cycle of G which is X -dominating. Assume C is chosen such that $\max\{d(v) | v \in X \setminus V(C)\}$ is maximum. If $X \setminus V(C) = \emptyset$, there is nothing to prove. Thus we assume $X \setminus V(C) = \{u_0, u_1, \dots, u_t\}$, such that $d(u_0) \geq d(u_1) \geq \dots \geq d(u_t)$. Let $A = N(u_0)$ and $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{|A|}$ be the vertices of A and $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{|A|}$ be the vertices of A^X , occurring on \overrightarrow{C} and, without loss of generality, we assume that $d(x_1) = \min\{d(x_i) | 1 \leq i \leq |A|\}$. From Lemma 7, we have $|X \setminus V(C)| + |A^X| \leq \alpha(X)$. Hence $|X \cap V(C)| \geq |X| + |A^X| - \alpha(X) = |X| + d(u_0) - \alpha(X)$. Thus it suffices to show that $d(u_0) \geq \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X)$. It is clearly true if $t \geq 2$.

Suppose $t = 1$, $d(u_0) < \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X)$ and consider x_1 . Set $R = V(G) \setminus V(C)$. For $j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}$, set $u_{j1} = v_j^+$, and let $u_{j2} = u_{j1}^+$ if $N(u_{j1}) \cap R = \emptyset$, otherwise let u_{j2} be the an arbitrary vertex in $N(u_{j1}) \cap R$.

Suppose $x_1 u_{j2} \in E(G)$ for some $j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}$, then the cycle $C' = u_0 v_j \overleftarrow{C} x_1 u_{j2} \overrightarrow{C} v_1 u_0$ is X -longer than C , unless $u_{j1} \in X$ and $N(u_{j1}) \cap R = \emptyset$. Moreover, if $u_{j1} \in X$ and $N(u_{j1}) \cap R = \emptyset$, the cycle C' is X -dominating and has $|V(C') \cap X| = |V(C) \cap X|$ but includes u_0 and omits u_{j1} . However, u_0, u_1, u_{j1} are independent and belongs to X , thus $d(u_0) + d(u_1) + d(u_{j1}) \geq$

$\sigma_3(X)$. This implies $d(u_{j_1}) > \frac{1}{3}\sigma_3(X) > d(u_0)$, contradicting the choice of C . Indeed, $x_1 u_{j_2} \notin E(G)$ for any $j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}$.

Clearly, we have that $x_1 u_{j_1} \notin E(G)$ for any $j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}$. We denote $s = |\{j|u_{j_2} \notin V(C), j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}\}|$. We note that, any distinct two vertices of $\{x_1, u_{21}, u_{22}, \dots, u_{|A|1}\}$ have no neighbors in $V(G) \setminus V(C)$, $u_0, u_1 \notin N(x_1)$, $u_{j_2} \neq u_0, u_1$ ($j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}$) and $u_{j_2} \notin N(x_1)$. Since $N(x_1) \cap V(C) \subseteq V(C) \setminus (\{x_1\} \cup \{u_{j_1}, u_{j_2} | j \in \{2, 3, \dots, |A|\}\})$, hence we obtain the follows

$$d(x_1) \leq |V(C)| - (d(u_0) + d(u_0) - 1 - s) + |N(x_1) \setminus V(C)|$$

But then $n \leq d(x_1) + d(u_0) + d(u_1) \leq d(x_1) + 2d(u_0) \leq |V(C)| + s + |N(x_1) \setminus V(C)| + 1 \leq n - 2 + 1 = n - 1$, a contradiction.

Finally, the proof for $t = 0$ is modeled along the lines of the proof of Theorem 5. Whenever a contradiction is obtained in the proof of Theorem 5 by finding an X -longest cycle, we now find a contradiction either in the same way, or by finding an X -dominating cycle C' such that $|V(C') \cap X| = |X| - 1$ and $v_0 \in X \setminus V(C')$ has $d(v_0) > d(u_0)$. The argument, although quite lengthy is involved, is tedious and is thus omitted here. The full proof can be found in the appendix of [9].

Thus we prove the theorem. □

Acknowledgments

I thank one anonymous referee for the suggestion to this revised paper.

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