

Equi-Toughness Partitions of Graphs

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Abstract

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. Let S be a subset of $V(G)$. The toughness value of S denoted by T_S is defined as $\frac{|S|}{\omega(G-S)}$, where $\omega(G-S)$ denotes the number of

components in $G-S$. If $S = V$, then $\omega(G-S)$ is taken to be 1 and hence $T_{V(G)} = |V(G)|$. A partition of $V(G)$ into subsets V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t such that $T_{V_i}, 1 \leq i \leq t$ is a constant is called an equi-toughness partition of G . The maximum cardinality of such a partition is called equi-toughness partition number of G and is denoted by $ET(G)$. The existence of ET -partition is guaranteed. In this paper, a study of this new parameter is initiated.

Keywords: Toughness, equi-toughness partition

1. Introduction

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. Then the toughness $t(G)$ of G is the minimum of $\frac{|S|}{\omega(G-S)}$ taken over all sets S of

vertices such that $\omega(G-S) \geq 2$, where $\omega(G)$ denote

the number of components of G . A subset S of $V(G)$ for which the minimum is achieved is called a tough set. The parameter toughness was introduced by Chvátal [3]. Though much of the research has focused on the relationship between toughness and hamiltonicity, some general results were derived by Pippert and Goddard [5] and Swart [4].

In the case of toughness of a graph, subsets S of V with $\omega(G - S) \geq 2$ are alone considered. For any subset S of V we can associate a value $\frac{|S|}{\omega(G - S)}$. If $\omega(G - S) = 1$,

then this value will be $|S|$. We call this value as the toughness value of S and we denote this by T_S . If $S = V$, then $\omega(G - S)$ is taken to be 1 and hence $T_{V(G)} = |V(G)|$. A partition of $V(G)$ into subsets V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t such that T_{V_i} , $1 \leq i \leq t$ is a constant is called an equi-toughness partition of G . The maximum cardinality of such a partition is called equi-toughness partition number of G and is denoted by $ET(G)$. A study of this equi-toughness partition is made in this paper.

2. Equi-toughness partition

Definition 2.1: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. Let S be a subset of $V(G)$. The toughness value of S denoted by T_S is defined as $\frac{|S|}{\omega(G - S)}$, where $\omega(G - S)$ denotes the number

of components in $G - S$. If $S = V$, then $\omega(G - S)$ is taken to be 1.

Definition 2.2: Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. A partition of $V(G)$ into subsets V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t such that $T_{V_i}, 1 \leq i \leq t$ is a constant is called an equi-toughness partition of G . The maximum cardinality of such a partition is called equi-toughness partition number of G and is denoted by $ET(G)$. Since $V(G)$ itself is an equi-toughness partition of G , the existence of an equi-toughness partition in any graph is guaranteed.

Observation 2.3: For any graph G , $1 \leq ET(G) \leq n$ and the bounds are attained as seen in Theorem 2.4 and Proposition 2.6 below.

Theorem 2.4: Let G be a nontrivial connected graph. Then $ET(G) = n$ if and only if G has no cut vertex.

Proof.

Suppose G is a nontrivial connected graph without cut vertex. Then $ET(G) = n$.

Conversely, suppose $ET(G) = n$. Then T_u is constant for every vertex $u \in V(G)$. Since G is a nontrivial connected graph, G has at least two vertices which are not cut vertices. For such a vertex say u , $T_u = 1$. Hence $T_u = 1$ for all $u \in V$

(G) . If G has cut vertex say v , then $T_v = \frac{1}{\omega(G-v)} < \frac{1}{2} < 1$,

a contradiction. Therefore, G has no cut vertices.

Proposition 2.5: $ET(K_n) = n$; $ET(K_{m,n}) = m + n$; $ET(W_n) = n$; $ET(C_n) = n$.

Proposition 2.6:

$$ET(K_{1,n}) = \begin{cases} \frac{n+3}{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof.

Case (i): Let $n + 1$ be odd. Let $n = 2\ell$.

Suppose $ET(K_{1,n}) > 1$. Let $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_s\}$ be a maximum equi-toughness partition of $K_{1,n}$. Without loss of generality, let the center of the star belong to V_1 . Let $|V_1| = k$ and

$T_{V_1} = t$. Therefore, $\frac{k}{n+1-k} = t$, (since $k < n + 1$, left hand

side is finite). Therefore, $k = \frac{(n+1)t}{t+1}$ and hence

$$k-1 = \frac{(n-1)}{t+1}.$$

Since $T_{V_2} = T_{V_3} = \dots = T_{V_s} = t$, $|V_2| = |V_3| = \dots = |V_s| = t$.

Thus, $|V_2| + |V_3| + \dots + |V_s| = 2\ell - (k-1) = 2\ell - \frac{(n-1)}{t+1}$.

Therefore, $2\ell - \frac{(n-1)}{t+1} = t(s-1)$, $s \geq 2$.

Therefore, $2\ell t + 1 = t(t+1)(s-1)$, a contradiction, since left hand side is odd and right hand side is even. Therefore, $ET(K_{1,n}) = 1$.

Case (ii): Suppose $n + 1$ is even.

Let $V(K_{1,n}) = \{u, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$, where u is the center of the star $K_{1,n}$.

Let $V_1 = \{u, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{\frac{n-1}{2}}\}$, $V_2 = \{v_{\frac{n+1}{2}}\}$, $V_3 = \{v_{\frac{n+3}{2}}\}$,

\dots , $V_{\frac{n+3}{2}} = \{v_n\}$. Then, $T_{V_1} = T_{V_2} = \dots = T_{V_{\frac{n+3}{2}}} = 1$. Thus,

$ET(K_{1,n}) \geq \frac{n+3}{2}$. Suppose $ET(K_{1,n}) = \ell > \frac{n+3}{2}$. Let

$\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_\ell\}$ be a maximum equi-toughness partition of $K_{1,n}$. Let $u \in V_1$. Let $T_{V_1} = t$ (say). Let $|V_1| = k$.

Therefore, $\frac{k}{n+1-k} = t$ implies $k-1 = \frac{n-1}{t+1}$.

Since $T_{V_2} = T_{V_3} = \dots = T_{V_\ell} = t$, $|V_2| = |V_3| = \dots = |V_\ell| =$

$n - \frac{n-1}{t+1}$. Therefore, $n - \frac{n-1}{t+1} = t(\ell-1)$, $\ell \geq 2$ implies

$\ell = \frac{nt+1}{t(t+1)} + 1$. Therefore, $\frac{nt+1}{t(t+1)} + 1 > \frac{n+3}{2}$ implies

$(n+1)t^2 + (1-n)t - 2 < 0$. $(n+1)t^2 + (1-n)t - 2 = 0$ gives

$t = 1$ or $\frac{-2}{n+1}$. Therefore, $(n+1)t^2 + (1-n)t - 2 < 0$ implies t

lies between 1 and $\frac{-2}{n+1}$. Therefore $t < 1$, a contradiction,

since $\ell > \frac{n+3}{2}$ implies $t \geq 1$. Thus, $\ell = \frac{n+3}{2}$.

$$\text{Hence ET}(K_{1,n}) = \frac{n+3}{2}.$$

Proposition 2.7:

$$EI(P_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 3 \\ \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 & \text{if } n \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

Proof.

It can be easily seen that $\text{ET}(P_3) = 1$. Let $n \geq 4$. Let $V(P_n) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$. If n is odd, then $\{\{v_1, v_{n-1}\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \{v_4, v_5\}, \dots, \{v_n\}\} = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$, where

$$k = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 \text{ is an ET-partition with } T_{V_i} = 1, \text{ for all } i,$$

$1 \leq i \leq k$. If n is even, then $\{\{v_1\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \dots,$

$$\{v_{n-2}, v_{n-1}\}, \{v_n\}\} = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}, \text{ where } k = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$$

is a maximum ET-partition with $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all i , $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Therefore, $EI(P_n) \geq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$. It can be easily seen that

$$\text{ET}(P_n) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 \text{ if } n \geq 4. \text{ Hence the result.}$$

Proposition 2.8: Let G be a connected graph of order n with $\kappa(G) \geq 2$ and G^+ , the corona of G . Then $\text{ET}(G^+) = |V(G)| + 1$.

Proof.

Let $V(G) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ and let v_i be the pendent adjacent to u_i in G^+ , $1 \leq i \leq n$. Consider the partition $\pi = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \dots, \{v_n\}, V(G)\}$. π is an equi-toughness partition since $T_{V_i} = 1$ and $T_{V(G)} = 1$. Therefore, $ET(G^+) \geq n + 1$. Suppose $ET(G^+) = t \geq n + 2$. Let $\pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t\}$ be a maximum equi-toughness partition of G^+ . If there are $(t - 3)$ sets in π with cardinality at least 2, then $|V(G^+)| = 2n \geq (t - 3) \cdot 2 + 3 = 2t - 3 \geq 2n + 1$, a contradiction. Therefore there are at most $(t - 4)$ sets in π of cardinality at least 2. Therefore there are at least 4 sets in π each having cardinality 1. Since T_u is 1, if u is a pendent and $\frac{1}{2}$ if u is a

support, a support and a pendent cannot appear as singletons in the partition. Therefore, the singleton sets are either formed by pendants or by supports.

Case (1): Suppose the singleton sets are formed by pendants. The number of pendants available for the sets in the partition π with the cardinality at least 2 is at most $n - 4$.

Also, $T_{V_i} = 1$ for all i , $1 \leq i \leq t$. $T_{V_i} = 1$ if and only if either

$V_i = \{v\}$, where v is a pendent or there are k supports and a single pendent in V_i and the single pendent is not adjacent to any of the supports in V_i or $V_i = V(G)$. If $V_i = V(G)$, then V_j , $j \neq i$ are all singletons and each of them is a pendent. Therefore $t = n + 1$, a contradiction. Thus, no V_i is $V(G)$. If every V_i is a singleton consisting of a pendent, then $t = n$, a contradiction. Therefore some V_i contains $k + 1$ vertices where k of the elements are supports and the remaining is a pendent which is not adjacent to the supports ($k \geq 1$). Since there are n supports and at most $n - 4$ pendants available for the sets containing $k + 1$ elements ($k \geq 1$), one of the sets

must contain at least 4 supports and the total number of sets is at most $n - 4$. Therefore $t \leq n$, a contradiction.

Case (2): Suppose the singleton sets are formed by supports. Then $T_{V_i} = \frac{1}{2}$, for all i , $1 \leq i \leq k$. Therefore any V_i

can not be made up of pendants only. Thus, either V_i is a singleton containing a support or V_i has both supports and pendants. Thus, with at most $n - 4$ supports available, we can make at most $n - 4$ sets. Therefore $t \leq n$, a contradiction.

Definition 2.9: A double star denoted by $D_{r,s}$ is formed by joining the centers of two stars $K_{1,r}$ and $K_{1,s}$.

Proposition 2.10: For any tree T of order $n \geq 4$, $ET(T) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$.

Proof.

On the same lines as in Proposition (2.4) with the

observation that $T_u = \frac{1}{\deg(u)}$, for any support u .

Remark 2.11: The bound is reached in P_n ($n \geq 4$), $D_{r,s}$ where r and s are of the same parity and Binary trees.

Proposition 2.12:

$$EI(D_{r,s}) = \begin{cases} \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1 & \text{if } r,s \text{ are of the same parity} \\ \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 3 & \text{if } r,s \text{ are not of the same parity} \end{cases}$$

Proof.

Let $V(D_{r,s}) = \{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$ where u, v are the centers of the double star $D_{r,s}$ and $u_i, 1 \leq i \leq r$ are the pendent vertices adjacent with u and $v_j, 1 \leq j \leq s$ are the pendent vertices adjacent with v .

Case (A): Let r, s be even.

Case (i): Suppose $r = s$.

Then $\{\{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{s-1}\}, \{u_1\}, \{u_2\}, \dots, \{u_r\}, \{v_s\}\} = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$, where $k = s + 2 = \frac{r+s}{2} + 2 = \frac{r+s+2}{2} + 1$ is an

ET-partition with $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all $i, 1 \leq i \leq k$. Therefore, ET

$$|V(D_{r,s})| \geq \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1.$$

Case (ii): Suppose $r < s$.

Then $\{\{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{\frac{r+s+2}{2}}\}, \{u_1\}, \{u_2\}, \dots, \{u_r\},$

$\{v_{\frac{r+s+2}{2}+1}\}, \dots, \{v_s\}\} = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$, where

$k = 1 + \left(s - \frac{r+s-2}{2}\right) + r = \frac{r+s+2}{2} + 1$ is an ET-partition with

$T_{V_i} = 1$, for all $i, 1 \leq i \leq k$. Therefore, $ET(D_{r,s}) \geq \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1$.

Suppose $ET(D_{r,s}) > \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1$. Let $ET(D_{r,s}) = t$ (say). Let

$\pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t\}$ be a maximum equi-toughness partition.

If $|V_i| \geq 2$, for all i , then $|V(D_{r,s})| \geq 2t > 2\left(\frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1\right)$, a

contradiction. Suppose there are $(t - 3)$ sets each of which has cardinality at least two and the other three sets in π are of cardinality 1. Then

$$|V(D_{r,s})| \geq 2(t-3) + 3 = 2t - 3 \geq 2 \left(\frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 2 \right) - 3 = \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1, \quad a$$

contradiction. Therefore, the number of sets in π each of which has cardinality at least two is at most $t - 4$. Thus, there are at least 4 sets in π which have cardinality 1. Therefore there are at least four pendent vertices which appear as singleton sets in π . Therefore $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all $i, 1 \leq i \leq k$.

Subcase (1): Let $u, v \in V_i$, for some i .

Then $\omega(V - V_i) = |V - V_i|$, since $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all i . Therefore $|V_i| = |V - V_i|$. Suppose V_i has t pendent vertices. Then $t + 2 = r + s + 2 - (t + 2)$. Thus, $t = \frac{r + s + 2}{2}$. Therefore $ET(D_{r,s}) = 1 + (r + s - t) = 1 + \frac{r + s + 2}{2}$.

Subcase (2): Let $u \in V_i$ and $v \in V_j$. Let V_i contains t_1 pendent vertices adjacent to u and t_2 pendent vertices adjacent to v . Then $\omega(V - V_i) = (r - t_1) + 1$.

$|V_i| = t_1 + t_2 + 1$. Therefore, $r - t_1 + 1 = t_1 + t_2 + 1$.

Thus, $r = t_2 + 2t_1$. Let V_j contain t_3 pendent vertices adjacent to u and t_4 pendent vertices adjacent to v . Then $\omega(V - V_j) = (s - t_4) + 1$. $|V_j| = t_3 + t_4 + 1$. Therefore, $s - t_4 + 1 = t_3 + t_4 + 1$. Thus, $s = t_3 + 2t_4$.

Therefore, $|\pi| = 2 + (r + s) - (t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4) = 2 + t_1 + t_4$.

Consider the following LPP,

Maximize $t_1 + t_4$

Subject to the constraints

$$2t_1 + t_2 = r$$

$2t_4 + t_3 = s$. The optimal solution of this problem is $t_1 = \frac{r}{2}$, $t_4 = \frac{s}{2}$ and $\max |\pi| = 2 + \frac{r+s}{2} = \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1$.

Case (B): r, s are odd

Case (i): Suppose $r = s$.

Then $\{\{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{s-1}\}, \{u_1\}, \{u_2\}, \dots, \{u_r\}, \{v_s\}\} = \{V_1,$

$V_2, \dots, V_k\}$, where $k = s + 2 = \frac{r+s}{2} + 2 = \frac{r+s+2}{2} + 1$ is

an ET-partition with $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all i , $1 \leq i \leq k$. Therefore,

$$ET(D_{r,s}) \geq \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1.$$

Subcase (1): Let $u, v \in V_i$, for some i . Arguing as in the subcase (1) of case (A), we have $ET(D_{r,s}) = 1 + \frac{r+s+2}{2}$.

Subcase (2): Let $u \in V_i$ and $v \in V_j$. Arguing as in the subcase (2) of case (A), we get, $|\pi| = 2 + (r+s) - (t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4) = 2 + t_1 + t_4$, where $2t_1 + t_2 = r$, $2t_4 + t_3 = r$. Since r is odd, $t_2 \geq 1$ and $t_3 \geq 1$. Therefore, $t_1 + t_4 < r = \frac{r+s}{2}$.

Therefore $|\pi| = 2 + t_1 + t_4 < 2 + r = \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1$. Therefore,

if u and v belong to different elements of π , then $|\pi|$ will not be maximum.

Case (ii): Suppose $r < s$. Then $\{\{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{\frac{r+s+2}{2}}\}, \{u_1\}, \{u_2\}, \dots, \{u_r\}, \{v_{\frac{r+s+2}{2}+1}\}, \dots, \{v_s\}\} = \{V_1, V_2,$

$\dots, V_k\}$, where $k = 1 + \left(s - \frac{r+s-2}{2}\right) + r = \frac{r+s+2}{2} + 1$ is an

ET-partition with $T_{V_i} = 1$, for all i , $1 \leq i \leq k$. Therefore,

$$ET(D_{r,s}) \geq \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} + 1.$$

Subcase (1): Let $u, v \in V_i$, for some i . Arguing as in the subcase (1) of case (A), we have $ET(D_{r,s}) = 1 + \frac{r+s+2}{2}$.

Subcase (2): Suppose $u \in V_i$ and $v \in V_j$. Arguing as in subcase (2) of case (i) of case (B), we get $|\pi|$ is not maximum.

Case(C): r and s are of opposite parity.

Without loss of generality, let r be odd and s be even. Suppose $|\pi| \geq \left\lceil \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|}{2} \right\rceil = \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|+1}{2}$. Suppose

$$ET(D_{r,s}) > \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|+1}{2}.$$

Therefore, $ET(D_{r,s}) \geq \frac{|V(D_{r,s})|+3}{2}$. Suppose there are $(t -$

2) elements of π having cardinality at least 2.

Then $|\pi| = |V_1| + |V_2| + \dots + |V_t| \geq 2(t - 2) + 2 = 2 \left(\frac{|V(D_{r,s})|+3}{2} \right) - 2 + 2 = |V(D_{r,s})| + 1$, a contradiction.

Therefore π has at least 3 singletons. Therefore $T_{V_i} = 1$ for all i .

Subcase (i): Suppose $u, v \in V_i$, for some i . But $\omega(V - V_i) = |V - V_i|$. Let V_i have ℓ pendent vertices. Then $\ell + 2 = r + s -$

1. Therefore, $2\ell = r + s - 2$, a contradiction (since left hand side is even and right hand side is odd). Therefore, u and v can not belong to the same element of π .

Subcase (2): Suppose $u \in V_i$ and $v \in V_j$. Let V_i contains t_1 pendent vertices adjacent to u and t_2 pendent vertices adjacent to v . Then $\omega(V - V_i) = (r - t_1) + 1$. $|V_i| = t_1 + t_2 + 1$. Therefore, $r - t_1 + 1 = t_1 + t_2 + 1$. Thus, $r = t_2 + 2t_1$. Let V_j contain t_3 pendent vertices adjacent to u and t_4 pendent vertices adjacent to v . Then $\omega(V - V_j) = (s - t_4) + 1$. $|V_j| = t_3 + t_4 + 1$. Therefore, $s - t_4 + 1 = t_3 + t_4 + 1$. Thus, $s = t_3 + 2t_4$. Therefore, $|\pi| = 2 + (r + s) - (t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4) = 2 + t_1 + t_4$.

Consider the following IPP,

Maximize $t_1 + t_4$

Subject to the constraint

$$2t_1 + t_2 = r$$

$$2t_4 + t_3 = s,$$

Since r is odd, $t_2 \geq 1$ and s is even, t_3 is even. The solution

for the above IPP is $t_1 = \frac{r-1}{2}$ and $t_4 = \frac{s}{2}$. Thus,

$$|\pi| = \frac{r+s-1}{2} + 2 = \frac{r+s+3}{2}. \text{ Hence } ET(D_{r,s}) = \frac{|V(D_{r,s})| + 1}{2}.$$

Definition 2.13: Let G be graph with $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$. The Mycielski transformation of G , denoted $\mu(G)$, has for its vertex set, the set $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n, z\}$. As for adjacency, x_i is adjacent with x_j in $\mu(G)$ if and only if v_i is adjacent with v_j in G , x_i is adjacent with y_j in $\mu(G)$ if and only if v_i is adjacent with v_j in G , and y_i is adjacent with z in $\mu(G)$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Corollary 2.14: If G is any connected graph of order n , then $ET(\mu(G)) = |V(\mu(G))|$, since $\kappa(\mu(G)) \geq 2$.

Observations 2.15:

- (i). If G is hamiltonian, then $ET(G) = n$, since every hamiltonian graph is 2-connected.
- (ii). If G is k -regular of order $2k + 1$, then $ET(G) = n$, since G is hamiltonian.
- (iii). Let G be connected. Then, $ET(G) \leq ET(G^n)$ ($n \geq 2$), since G^n is a $k(\geq 2)$ -connected graph.
- (iv). If G is a connected graph with $\kappa(G) \geq 2$, then $ET(G) \leq ET(L(G))$, where $L(G)$ denotes the line graph of G .

3. References

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