

**STRONG (WEAK) NEIGHBOURHOOD COVERING SETS  
OF A GRAPH**

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**Abstract:** The ve-degree of a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , denoted by  $d_{ve}(u)$ , is the number of edges in the subgraph  $\langle N[u] \rangle$ . A vertex  $u$  is said to n-cover (neighbourhood-cover) an edge  $e$  if  $e$  is an edge of the subgraph  $\langle N[u] \rangle$ . A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is called a n-covering set of a graph  $G$  if every edge in  $G$  is n-covered by some vertex in  $S$ . The n-covering number  $\alpha_n(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of a n-covering set of  $G$ . In this paper, we introduce new parameters such as strong (weak) n-covering number and strong (weak) n-independence number using ve-degrees of vertices, and we establish a relationship between them. Further, we define and study n-cover balanced sets.

**Keywords and Phrases:** ve-degree, n-cover, strong n-covering number, n-cover balanced graph.

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## 1. Introduction

By a graph  $G$ , we refer to a finite, simple, undirected graph with a vertex set  $V(G)$  and an edge set  $E(G)$ . Let  $|V(G)| = p$  denote the order of  $G$ , and  $|E(G)| = q$  denote the size of  $G$ . The terminologies and notations used here follow those in [3, 8]. For any  $v \in V(G)$ , the set  $N[v] = \{u \in V(G) : uv \in E(G)\} \cup \{v\}$  represents the closed neighborhood of  $v$ . If  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , then the induced subgraph  $\langle S \rangle$  of  $G$  has vertex set  $S$  and edge set  $E(\langle S \rangle) = \{uv \in E(G) \mid u \in S \text{ and } v \in S\}$ . A vertex  $v$  is said to cover an edge  $e$  if  $e$  is incident on  $v$ . A set  $D \subseteq V(G)$  is called a vertex cover of  $G$  if every edge in  $G$  is covered by some vertex in  $D$ . The vertex covering number  $\alpha(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of a vertex cover of  $G$ . The concepts of strong and weak vertex coverings were first introduced by S. S. Kamath and R. S. Bhat [4]. For an edge  $e = uv$ , vertex  $v$  strongly covers the edge  $e$  if  $d(v) \geq d(u)$ . In such a case, vertex  $u$  weakly covers  $e$ . A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is a strong (weak) vertex cover of a graph  $G$  if every edge in  $G$  is strongly (weakly) covered by some vertex in  $S$ . The strong (weak) vertex covering number  $s\alpha(G)$  ( $w\alpha(G)$ ) is the minimum cardinality of a strong (weak) vertex cover of  $G$ . These two parameters satisfy the following inequality: for any graph  $G$ ,  $s\alpha(G) \leq w\alpha(G) \leq \alpha(G)$ .

The concept of the ve-degree of a vertex was introduced by S. S. Kamath and R. S. Bhat [5]. The ve-degree of a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , denoted by  $d_{ve}(u)$ , is the number of edges in the subgraph  $\langle N[u] \rangle$ . If  $G$  is a triangle-free graph, then  $d_{ve}(u) = d(u)$  for every  $u \in V(G)$ . The maximum ve-degree of a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $\Delta_{ve}(G)$ , and the minimum ve-degree of  $G$  is denoted by  $\delta_{ve}(G)$ . A graph  $G$  is said to be ve-regular if  $d_{ve}(u) = d_{ve}(w)$  for every  $u, w \in V(G)$ .

In 1985, E. Sampathkumar and P. S. Neeralagi [6] initiated the study of the neighborhood set of a graph. A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is called a neighborhood set of  $G$  if  $G = \bigcup_{v \in S} \langle N[v] \rangle$ , where  $\langle N[v] \rangle$  is the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $N[v]$ . The neighborhood number  $n_0(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of a neighborhood set of  $G$ . A vertex  $v$  is said to n-cover (neighborhood-cover) an edge  $e$  if  $e$  is an edge of the induced subgraph  $\langle N[v] \rangle$ . A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is called an n-covering set of a graph  $G$  if every edge in  $G$  is n-covered by some vertex in  $S$ . The n-covering number, denoted as  $\alpha_n(G)$ , is the minimum cardinality of a n-covering set of  $G$ . Note that, for any graph  $G$  without isolated vertices, any n-covering set of  $G$  is also a neighborhood set of  $G$ , and vice versa. Therefore,  $n_0(G) = \alpha_n(G)$  for any graph  $G$  without isolated vertices. Additionally, if a graph  $G$  has  $k$  isolated vertices, then  $n_0(G) = \alpha_n(G) + k$ . S. G. Bhat [1] introduced the concept of n-independent (neighborhood-independent) sets. A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is said to be n-independent if every edge  $e \in E(\langle S \rangle)$  is n-covered by a vertex in  $V(G) - S$ . The n-independence

number  $\beta_n(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the maximum cardinality of an  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . These two parameters satisfy the following relation:  $\alpha_n(G) + \beta_n(G) = p$ . The properties of  $n$ -covering sets and  $n$ -independent sets were further studied in [2].

## 2. Strong (weak) $n$ -covering sets and strong (weak) $n$ -independent sets of a graph

**Definition 2.1.** A vertex  $u \in V(G)$  strongly (weakly)  $n$ -covers an edge  $e \in E(G)$  if  $u$   $n$ -covers  $e$  and  $d_{ve}(u) \geq d_{ve}(w)$  ( $d_{ve}(u) \leq d_{ve}(w)$ ) for every  $w$  which  $n$ -covers  $e$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is said to be a strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  if vertices in  $S$  strongly (weakly)  $n$ -covers all the edges of  $G$ . The strong (weak)  $n$ -covering number  $s\alpha_n(G)$  ( $w\alpha_n(G)$ ) of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality of a strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . That is,  $s\alpha_n(G) = \min\{|S| : S \text{ is a strong } n\text{-covering set}\}$ .

**Definition 2.3.** A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is said to be a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$  if for every edge  $e$  in  $\langle S \rangle$ , there exists a vertex  $w \in V(G) - S$  such that  $w$  weakly (strongly)  $n$ -covers  $e$ . The strong (weak)  $n$ -independence number  $s\beta_n(G)$  ( $w\beta_n(G)$ ) of  $G$  is the maximum cardinality of a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

### Remark 2.1.

(i) For a null  $p$ -vertex graph  $\overline{K_p}$ , we assume that  $s\alpha_n(\overline{K_p}) = w\alpha_n(\overline{K_p}) = 0$  and  $s\beta_n(\overline{K_p}) = w\beta_n(\overline{K_p}) = p$ .

(ii) Let  $G$  be a non-trivial and non-null graph and  $u_{\Delta_{ve}}$  ( $u_{\delta_{ve}}$ ) be a vertex of  $G$  of maximum (minimum)  $ve$ -degree. Then  $V(G) - \{u_{\delta_{ve}}\}$  ( $V(G) - \{u_{\Delta_{ve}}\}$ ) is a strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . Further,  $\{u_{\Delta_{ve}}\}$  ( $\{u_{\delta_{ve}}\}$ ) is a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Example 2.1.** For the graph  $G_1$  shown in Figure 1, the  $ve$ -degrees are as follows:  $d_{ve}(v_1) = 3$ ,  $d_{ve}(v_2) = d_{ve}(v_3) = 5$ ,  $d_{ve}(v_4) = 4$ ,  $d_{ve}(v_5) = 2$ , and  $d_{ve}(v_6) = 1$ .

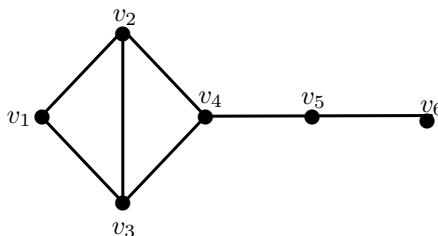


Figure 1: Graph  $G_1$

Note that  $\{v_3, v_5\}$  is an  $n$ -covering set of  $G_1$ ,  $\{v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  is a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G_1$ , and  $\{v_1, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G_1$ . Furthermore,  $\{v_1, v_2, v_4, v_6\}$  is an  $n$ -independent set of  $G_1$ ,  $\{v_2, v_3\}$  is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G_1$ , and  $\{v_1, v_3, v_6\}$  is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G_1$ . Hence,  $\alpha_n(G_1) = 2$ ,  $s\alpha_n(G_1) = 3$ ,  $w\alpha_n(G_1) = 4$ ,  $\beta_n(G_1) = 4$ ,  $s\beta_n(G_1) = 2$ , and  $w\beta_n(G_1) = 3$ .

### 2.1. Preliminary Results

We compute strong (weak)  $n$ -covering number and strong (weak)  $n$ -independence number of some standard graphs.

#### Proposition 2.1.

- (i) For a path  $P$  with  $p \geq 3$  vertices,  $\alpha_n(P) = s\alpha_n(P) = \lfloor \frac{p}{2} \rfloor$ ,  $w\alpha_n(P) = \lceil \frac{p+1}{2} \rceil$ ,  $s\beta_n(P) = \lfloor \frac{p-1}{2} \rfloor$  and  $\beta_n(P) = w\beta_n(P) = \lceil \frac{p}{2} \rceil$ .
- (ii) For a cycle  $C$  with  $p \geq 4$  vertices,  $\alpha_n(C) = s\alpha_n(C) = w\alpha_n(C) = \lceil \frac{p}{2} \rceil$  and  $\beta_n(C) = s\beta_n(C) = w\beta_n(C) = \lceil \frac{p}{2} \rceil$ .
- (iii) For a complete bipartite graph  $K_{m,l}$ ,  $\alpha_n(K_{m,l}) = s\alpha_n(K_{m,l}) = s\beta_n(K_{m,l}) = \min\{m, l\}$  and  $w\alpha_n(K_{m,l}) = \beta_n(K_{m,l}) = w\beta_n(K_{m,l}) = \max\{m, l\}$ .
- (iv) For a complete graph  $K_p$  with  $p$  vertices,  $\alpha_n(K_p) = s\alpha_n(K_p) = w\alpha_n(K_p) = 1$  and  $\beta_n(K_p) = s\beta_n(K_p) = w\beta_n(K_p) = p - 1$ .
- (v) For a wheel graph  $W_p$  with  $p \geq 5$  vertices,  $\alpha_n(W_p) = s\alpha_n(W_p) = 1$ ,  $w\alpha_n(W_p) = \lfloor \frac{p}{2} \rfloor$ ,  $\beta_n(W_p) = w\beta_n(W_p) = p - 1$  and  $s\beta_n(W_p) = \lceil \frac{p}{2} \rceil$ .
- (vi) For a windmill graph  $Wd(k, l)$  with  $k \geq 2$  and  $l \geq 2$ ,  $\alpha_n(Wd(k, l)) = s\alpha_n(Wd(k, l)) = 1$ ,  $w\alpha_n(Wd(k, l)) = l$ ,  $\beta_n(Wd(k, l)) = w\beta_n(Wd(k, l)) = l(k - 1)$  and  $s\beta_n(Wd(k, l)) = l(k - 2) + 1$ .
- (vii) For a Dutch windmill graph  $D_k^{(m)}$  with  $k > 4$  and  $m \geq 2$ ,  $\alpha_n(D_k^{(m)}) = s\alpha_n(D_k^{(m)}) = 1 + m \lceil \frac{k-2}{2} \rceil$ ,  $w\alpha_n(D_k^{(m)}) = m \lceil \frac{k}{2} \rceil$ ,  $\beta_n(D_k^{(m)}) = w\beta_n(D_k^{(m)}) = m \lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor$  and  $s\beta_n(D_k^{(m)}) = 1 + m \lceil \frac{k-3}{2} \rceil$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $p > 1$ . Then,

- (i)  $s\alpha_n(G) = 1$  if and only if there exists  $v \in V(G)$  such that  $d(v) = p - 1$ .
- (ii)  $w\alpha_n(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G = K_p$ .

**Remark 2.2.**

(i) For any graph  $G$ ,  $\alpha_n(G) \leq \min\{s\alpha_n(G), w\alpha_n(G)\}$  and  $\max\{s\beta_n(G), w\beta_n(G)\} \leq \beta_n(G)$ .

(ii) If a graph  $G$  has no triangles, then  $s\alpha_n(G) = s\alpha(G)$  and  $w\alpha_n(G) = w\alpha(G)$ .

**2.2. Gallai-type results**

We first prove the following and obtain Gallai-type results for the new parameters defined.

**Proposition 2.3.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. For any set  $S \subseteq V(G)$ ,

(i)  $S$  is a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  if and only if  $V(G) - S$  is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

(ii)  $S$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  if and only if  $V(G) - S$  is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  and  $W = V(G) - S$ . Let  $e$  be an edge in the subgraph  $\langle W \rangle$ . Since  $S$  is a strong  $n$ -covering set, there exists  $u \in S$  such that  $u$  strongly  $n$ -covers  $e$ . Thus,  $W$  is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Conversely, let  $W$  be a weak  $n$ -independent set and  $S = V(G) - W$ . Let  $e \in E(G)$ . Then, we consider the following two cases:

**Case 1.** If  $e \in E(\langle W \rangle)$ , then there exists  $u \in V(G) - W = S$  such that  $u$  strongly  $n$ -covers  $e$ .

**Case 2.** If  $e \notin E(\langle W \rangle)$ , then  $u$  be a vertex in  $V(G)$  which strongly  $n$ -covers  $e$ . Now, suppose  $u \in W$ , then  $e \in E(\langle N[u] \rangle) \subseteq E(\langle W \rangle)$ , which is a contradiction. This implies that,  $u \in V(G) - W = S$ .

Hence,  $S$  is a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . With the similar arguments, we can prove that the complement of a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** For any graph  $G$  of order  $p > 1$ ,

(i)  $s\alpha_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) = p$

(ii)  $w\alpha_n(G) + s\beta_n(G) = p$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  such that  $|S| = s\alpha_n(G)$ . Then by Proposition 2.3,  $V(G) - S$  is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Hence,  $w\beta_n(G) \geq |V(G) - S| = p - s\alpha_n(G)$ . Therefore,  $s\alpha_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) \geq p$ . Again, if  $W$  is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$  such that  $|W| = w\beta_n(G)$ . Then  $V(G) - W$  is a

strong  $n$ -covering set by Proposition 2.3. Hence,  $s\alpha_n(G) \leq |V(G) - W|$ . That is,  $s\alpha_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) \leq p$ . Then from the above inequalities (i) follows. Similarly, (ii) holds.

### 3. Strong and weak ve-degree of a vertex

**Definition 3.1.** The strong (weak) ve-degree of a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , denoted by  $d_{sve}(u)$  ( $d_{wve}(u)$ ), is the number of edges strongly (weakly)  $n$ -covered by  $u$ . Then  $\Delta_{sve}(G)$  ( $\Delta_{wve}(G)$ ) and  $\delta_{sve}(G)$  ( $\delta_{wve}(G)$ ) represent the maximum strong (weak) ve-degree and minimum strong (weak) ve-degree of  $G$ , respectively.

**Definition 3.2.** The regular ve-degree of a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , denoted by  $d_{rve}(u)$ , is the number of edges which are both strongly and weakly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ . The balanced ve-degree of a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , denoted by  $d_{bve}(u)$ , is the number of edges which are neither strongly nor weakly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ .

**Definition 3.3.** A vertex  $u \in V(G)$  is called strong (weak) ve-silent if  $d_{sve}(u) = 0$  ( $d_{wve}(u) = 0$ ). A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is said to be strong (weak) ve-silent set if for every vertex  $u \in S$ ,  $d_{sve}(u) = 0$  ( $d_{wve}(u) = 0$ ). The strong (weak) ve-silent number  $\Theta_{sve}(G)$  ( $\Theta_{wve}(G)$ ) is the maximum cardinality of a strong (weak) ve-silent set of  $G$ .

**Remark 3.1.** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\Delta_{ve}(G) = \Delta_{sve}(G)$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph. Then for any vertex  $u \in V(G)$ ,  $d_{ve}(u) = d_{sve}(u) + d_{wve}(u) + d_{bve}(u) - d_{rve}(u)$ .

**Proof.** Consider a vertex  $u \in V(G)$ . Let  $D$  be the set of all edges  $n$ -covered by  $u$ ,  $S$  be the set of edges strongly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ ,  $W$  be the set of edges weakly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ ,  $R$  be the set of edges both strongly and weakly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ , and  $B$  be the set of edges neither strongly nor weakly  $n$ -covered by  $u$ . By definition,  $S \cap W = R$ ,  $S \cap B = \emptyset$ ,  $W \cap B = \emptyset$ , and  $R \cap B = \emptyset$ . Hence, we have  $d_{ve}(u) = |D| = |S \cup W \cup B| = |S| + |W| + |B| - |S \cap W| - |S \cap B| - |W \cap B| + |S \cap W \cap B|$ . Since  $S \cap B = \emptyset$ ,  $W \cap B = \emptyset$ , and  $R \cap B = \emptyset$ , this simplifies to  $d_{ve}(u) = |S| + |W| + |B| - |R|$ . Therefore,  $d_{ve}(u) = d_{sve}(u) + d_{wve}(u) + d_{bve}(u) - d_{rve}(u)$ .

### 4. Bounds on $s\alpha_n(G)$ and $w\alpha_n(G)$

**Proposition 4.1.** If there exists a strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set of a graph  $G$  which is also a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ , then

$$(i) \quad s\alpha_n(G) + w\alpha_n(G) \leq p$$

$$(ii) \quad s\beta_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) \geq p.$$

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a strong  $n$ -covering set of a graph  $G$  which is also a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Then,  $s\alpha_n(G) \leq |S|$ . Also, by the Proposition 2.3,  $V(G) - S$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . That is,  $w\alpha_n(G) \leq |V(G) - S| = p - |S|$ . Thus, (i) holds. Using the Theorem 2.1 in (i), we get  $s\beta_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) \geq p$ . Similar argument holds for weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  which is also a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with order  $p$  and size  $q$ . Then*

$$(i) \left\lceil \frac{q}{\Delta_{ve}(G)} \right\rceil \leq s\alpha_n(G) \leq p - \Theta_{sve}(G)$$

$$(ii) \left\lceil \frac{q}{\Delta_{wve}(G)} \right\rceil \leq w\alpha_n(G) \leq p - \Theta_{wve}(G).$$

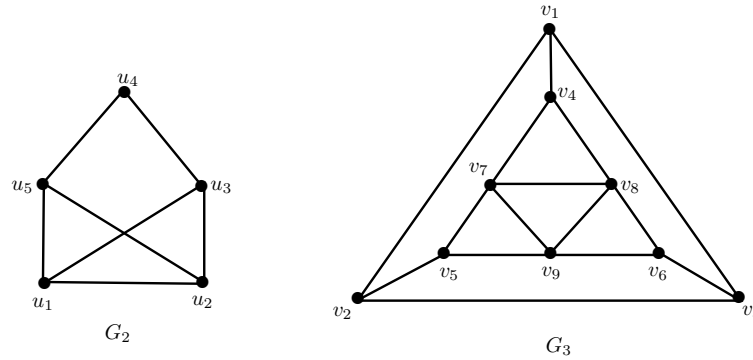
**Proof.** Since a vertex  $u \in V(G)$  can strongly  $n$ -cover at most  $\Delta_{ve}(G)$  edges and we have to strongly  $n$ -cover all the  $q$  edges, we need at least  $\left\lceil \frac{q}{\Delta_{ve}(G)} \right\rceil$  vertices to strongly  $n$ -cover all the edges of  $G$ . This implies the lower bound in (i) holds. Let  $S \subseteq V(G)$  be a strong  $ve$ -silent set of  $G$  with maximum cardinality. That is,  $|S| = \Theta_{sve}(G)$ . Since, every vertex in  $S$  is strong  $ve$ -silent, no vertex in  $S$  can strongly  $n$ -cover any edge in  $G$ . Therefore,  $V(G) - S$  is a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . Hence,  $s\alpha_n(G) \leq p - |S| = p - \Theta_{sve}(G)$ . With the similar arguments, the bounds in (ii) holds.

**Example 4.1.** We observe that any complete graph  $K_p$  attain the lower bounds in (i) and (ii) of the Proposition 4.2. For any wheel graph  $W_p$ , note that  $s\alpha_n(W_p) = 1 = p - (p - 1) = p - \Theta_{sve}(W_p)$ . Thus,  $W_p$  attains the upper bound in (i). Also, for the graph  $G_1$  given in the Figure 1, we have  $w\alpha_n(G_1) = 4 = 6 - 2 = p - \Theta_{wve}(G_1)$ . Hence,  $G_1$  attains the upper bound in (ii). Thus the above bounds in the Proposition 4.2 are sharp.

**Remark 4.1.**

(i) *For any  $ve$ -regular graph  $G$ ,  $\alpha_n(G) = s\alpha_n(G) = w\alpha_n(G)$  and  $\beta_n(G) = s\beta_n(G) = w\beta_n(G)$ . But, the converse need not be true. Note that, a wheel graph  $W_p$  with  $p \geq 5$  is not  $ve$ -regular, but  $\alpha_n(W_p) = s\alpha_n(W_p)$  and  $\beta_n(W_p) = w\beta_n(W_p)$ . The graph  $G_2$  given in the Figure 2 is not  $ve$ -regular, but  $s\alpha_n(G_2) = 3 = w\alpha_n(G_2)$  and  $s\beta_n(G_2) = 2 = w\beta_n(G_2)$ . Also, for the graph  $G_3$  in the Figure 2, we have  $\alpha_n(G_3) = w\alpha_n(G_3)$  and  $\beta_n(G_3) = s\beta_n(G_3)$ , but  $G_3$  is not  $ve$ -regular.*

(ii) *The numbers  $s\alpha_n(G)$  and  $w\alpha_n(G)$  are incomparable in general. For example, in Figure 2,  $\{v_1, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G_3$  and  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_7, v_8\}$*

Figure 2: Graphs  $G_2$  and  $G_3$ 

is a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G_3$ . Hence,  $s\alpha_n(G_3) = 5 > 4 = w\alpha_n(G_3)$ . On the other hand, for a wheel graph  $W_p$  with  $p \geq 5$ , we have  $s\alpha_n(W_p) < w\alpha_n(W_p)$ .

## 5. n-cover Balanced Graphs

E. Sampathkumar and L. Pushpa Latha [7] introduced the concept of domination balanced graphs. In a similar way, we define  $n$ -cover balanced graphs.

**Definition 5.1.** A graph  $G$  is said to be  $n$ -cover balanced if there exists a strong  $n$ -covering set  $S_1$  of  $G$  and a weak  $n$ -covering set  $S_2$  of  $G$  such that  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \phi$ .

**Example 5.1.** A wheel graph  $W_p$  is a  $n$ -cover balanced graph. Consider the graph  $G_1$  given in the Figure 1. Note that,  $v_4$  uniquely strongly  $n$ -covers the edge  $v_4v_5$  and weakly  $n$ -covers the edges  $v_2v_4$  and  $v_3v_4$ . This implies that,  $v_4$  belongs to any strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set of  $G_1$ . Thus,  $G_1$  is not a  $n$ -cover balanced graph.

**Proposition 5.1.** For any graph  $G$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $G$  is  $n$ -cover balanced.
- (ii) There exists a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  which is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .
- (iii) There exists a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  which is a weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a  $n$ -cover balanced graph. Then there exists a strong  $n$ -covering set  $S_1$  of  $G$  and a weak  $n$ -covering set  $S_2$  of  $G$  such that  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \phi$ . Let  $e$  be an edge of the subgraph  $\langle S_1 \rangle$ . Then there exists a vertex  $u \in S_2 \subseteq V(G) - S_1$  such that  $u$  weakly  $n$ -covers  $e$ . Thus,  $S_1$  is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Similarly, we can prove that  $S_2$  is weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . This implies that, (i)  $\implies$  (ii)



and (i)  $\implies$  (iii) holds. To prove (ii)  $\implies$  (i) and (ii)  $\implies$  (iii): Let  $S$  be a strong  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  which is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Then by Proposition 2.3,  $V(G) - S$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$  and weak  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Thus,  $G$  is  $n$ -cover balanced. With similar arguments, (iii)  $\implies$  (i) and (iii)  $\implies$  (ii) holds.

**Note 5.1.** We denote a strong (weak)  $n$ -covering set  $S$  of  $G$  with  $|S| = s\alpha_n(G)$  ( $|S| = w\alpha_n(G)$ ) as  $s\alpha_n$ -set ( $w\alpha_n$ -set) of  $G$ .

**Definition 5.2.** A  $n$ -cover balanced graph  $G$  is fully  $n$ -cover balanced if there exists a partition of vertex set  $V(G) = S_1 \cup S_2$  such that  $S_1$  is a  $s\alpha_n$ -set of  $G$  and  $S_2$  is a  $w\alpha_n$ -set of  $G$ .

**Example 5.2.** The graph  $G_4$  in the Figure 3 is fully  $n$ -cover balanced, since  $\{u_2, u_5\}$  is the  $s\alpha_n$ -set of  $G_4$  and  $\{u_1, u_3, u_4, u_6\}$  is the  $w\alpha_n$ -set of  $G_4$ .

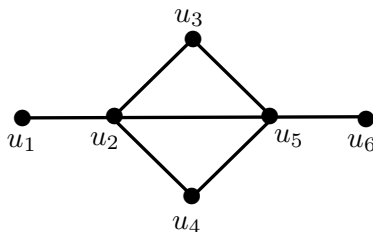


Figure 3: Graph  $G_4$

**Remark 5.1.** Every fully  $n$ -cover balanced graph is  $n$ -cover balanced. But the converse need not be true. For example, a wheel graph  $W_p$   $n$ -cover balanced, but not fully  $n$ -cover balanced.

**Proposition 5.2.**

- (i) If a graph  $G$  is  $n$ -cover balanced, then  $s\alpha_n(G) + w\alpha_n(G) \leq p$ .
- (ii) If a graph  $G$  is fully  $n$ -cover balanced, then  $s\alpha_n(G) + w\alpha_n(G) = p$ .

**Proposition 5.3.** A graph  $G$  is fully  $n$ -cover balanced if, and only if, the following two conditions are satisfied.

- (i)  $s\beta_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) = p$
- (ii) There exists a  $s\alpha_n$ -set ( $w\alpha_n$ -set) which is a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $G$  is fully  $n$ -cover balanced. Then, there exists a partition of vertex set  $V(G) = S_1 \cup S_2$  such that  $S_1$  is a  $s\alpha_n$ -set of  $G$  and  $S_2$  is a  $w\alpha_n$ -set of  $G$ . This implies that,  $s\beta_n(G) + w\beta_n(G) = p$ . By Proposition 2.3, we have  $V(G) - S_2 = S_1$  is a strong  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Thus, (ii) holds. Conversely, assume that the statements (i) and (ii) are true in  $G$ . Let  $S$  be a  $s\alpha_n$ -set ( $w\alpha_n$ -set) which is a strong (weak)  $n$ -independent set of  $G$ . Then, by Proposition 2.3,  $V(G) - S$  is a weak  $n$ -covering set of  $G$ . Now, by (i) and Theorem 2.1,  $|V(G) - S| = p - s\alpha_n(G) = w\beta_n(G) = p - s\beta_n(G) = w\alpha_n(G)$ . That is,  $V(G) - S$   $w\alpha_n$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $G$  is fully  $n$ -cover balanced.

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