

## Inverse Secure Domination in Graphs

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### Abstract

In this paper, we show that every integers  $k$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  with  $1 \leq k \leq m < n$  is realizable as inverse domination number, inverse secure domination number, and order of  $G$  respectively. Further, we give the characterization of the inverse secure dominating set with inverse secure domination number of one and two and give some important results.

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**Keywords:** Domination, inverse dominating set, secure dominating set, inverse secure dominating set.

### 1. Introduction

Domination in graph was introduced by Claude Berge in 1958 and Oystein Ore in 1962 [8]. However, it was not until 1977, following an article [2] by Ernie Cockayne and Stephen Hedetniemi, that domination in graphs became an area of study by many researchers. One type of domination parameter is the secure domination in graphs. This

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was studied and introduced by E.J. Cockayne et al. [3, 4, 1]. Recently, Enriquez and Canoy, introduced a new domination parameter, the concept of secure convex domination in graphs [5]. The inverse domination in graph was first found in the paper of Kulli [9] and further read in [6, 10]. Moreover, for the general concepts, the reader may refer to [7]. In this study, we introduce a new domination parameter, the inverse secure domination in graphs, and give some important results.

Let  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  be a connected simple graph and  $v \in V(G)$ . The neighborhood of  $v$  is the set  $N_G(v) = N(v) = \{u \in V(G) : uv \in E(G)\}$ . If  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , then the *open neighborhood* of  $S$  is the set  $N_G(S) = N(S) = \bigcup_{v \in S} N_G(v)$ . The *closed neighborhood* of  $S$  is  $N_G[S] = N[S] = S \cup N(S)$ . A subset  $S$  of  $V(G)$  is a *dominating set* of  $G$  if for every  $v \in (V(G) \setminus S)$ , there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $xv \in E(G)$ , i.e.,  $N[S] = V(G)$ . The *domination number*  $\gamma(G)$  of  $G$  is the smallest cardinality of a dominating set of  $G$ .

A dominating set  $S$  in  $G$  is called a *secure dominating set* in  $G$  if for every  $u \in V(G) \setminus S$ , there exists  $v \in S \cap N_G(u)$  such that  $(S \setminus \{v\}) \cup \{u\}$  is a dominating set. The minimum cardinality of secure dominating set is called the *secure domination number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_s(G)$ . A secure dominating set of cardinality  $\gamma_s(G)$  is called  $\gamma_s$ -*set* of  $G$ . Let  $D$  be a minimum dominating set in  $G$ . The dominating set  $S \subseteq V(G) \setminus D$  is called an *inverse dominating set* with respect to  $D$ . The minimum cardinality of inverse dominating set is called an *inverse domination number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma^{-1}(G)$ . An inverse dominating set of cardinality  $\gamma^{-1}(G)$  is called  $\gamma^{-1}$ -*set* of  $G$ . Motivated by the definition of inverse domination in graph, we define a new domination parameter. Let  $C$  be a minimum secure dominating set in  $G$ . The secure dominating set  $S \subseteq V(G) \setminus C$  is called an *inverse secure dominating set* with respect to  $C$ . The minimum cardinality of inverse secure dominating set is called an *inverse secure domination number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G)$ . An inverse secure dominating set of cardinality  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G)$  is called  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -*set* of  $G$ .

## 2. Results

One of the classical result in the domination theory which was introduced by Ore in 1962 state the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.1. [8]** Let  $G$  be a graph with no isolated vertex. If  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is a  $\gamma$ -*set*, then  $V(G) \setminus S$  is also a dominating set in  $G$ .

This motivate a new domination parameter, the inverse secure domination in graphs. Theorem 2.1 guarantees the existence of  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -*set* in some graph  $G$ . Since the inverse secure dominating set of any graph  $G$  of order  $n$  cannot be  $V(G)$ , it follows that  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) \neq n$  and hence  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) < n$ .

Since  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G)$  does not always exists in a connected nontrivial graph  $G$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{G}_s^{-1}$  be a family of all graphs with inverse secure dominating set. Thus, for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that all connected nontrivial graphs considered belong to the

family  $\mathcal{G}_s^{-1}$ . From the definitions, the following result is immediate.

**Remark 2.2.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n \geq 4$ . Then

- (i)  $1 \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G) < n$ .
- (ii)  $\gamma(G) \leq \gamma^{-1}(G) \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G)$ ; and

The next result says that the value of the parameter  $\gamma_s^{-1}$  ranges over all positive integers.

**Theorem 2.3.** Given positive integers  $k$  and  $n$  such that  $n \geq 4$  and  $1 \leq k < n$ , there exists a connected nontrivial graph  $G$  with  $|V(G)| = n$  and  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = k$ .

*Proof.* Consider the following cases:

*Case 1.* Suppose  $k = 1$ .

Let  $G = K_n$ . Then, clearly,  $|V(G)| = n$  and  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$ .

*Case 2.* Suppose  $k = 2$ .

Let  $H_1 = K_r$  and  $r = n - 1$ . Let  $a, b \in V(H_1)$  and consider the graph  $G$  obtained from  $H_1$  by adding a vertex  $v \notin V(H_1)$  and a pendant edge  $vb$  (see Figure 1).

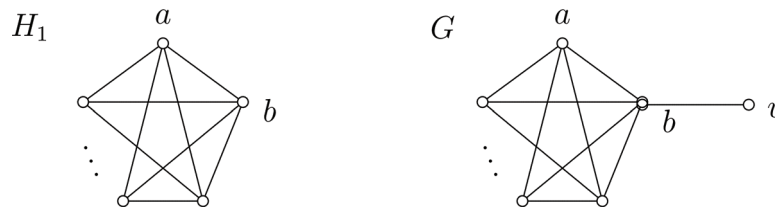


Figure 1: A graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$

Since  $C = \{a, b\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$ . The set  $S = \{v, x\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  for any  $x \in V(H_1) \setminus \{a, b\}$ . Hence,  $|V(G)| = r + 1 = n$  and  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2 = k$ .

*Case 3.* Suppose  $3 \leq k < n$ .

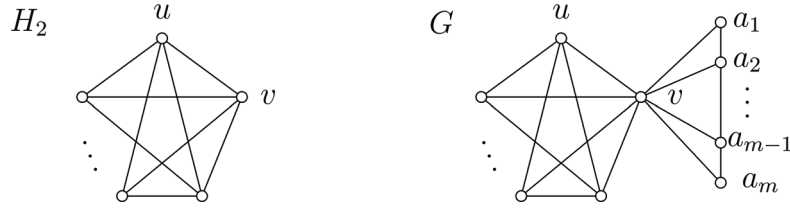
Let  $H_2 = K_r$  ( $r \geq 3$ ) and  $P_m = [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m]$  ( $m \geq 4$ ). Consider the graph  $G$  obtained from  $H_2$  by adding the edges  $va_1, va_2, \dots$ , and  $va_m$  (see Figure 2).

*Subcase 1.* Suppose that  $k = 3$ .

Let  $m = 4$ . Then the set  $C = \{u, v, a_1\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$  and  $S = \{a_2, a_3, x\}$  for all  $x \in V(H_2) \setminus \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 3 = k$ .

*Subcase 2.* Suppose that  $3 < k < n$ .

Let  $n = r + m$ ,  $r \geq 3$ . If  $2k = m + 2$  and  $m = 6s$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , then set  $C = \left\{ a_{3j+1} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-3}{3} \right\} \cup \{a_m, u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$  and the set  $S =$

Figure 2: A graph  $G$  with  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = k$ 

$\left\{a_{3j} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-3}{3}\right\} \cup \left\{a_{6j+2} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-6}{6}\right\} \cup \{a_1, a_{m-1}, x\}$  for all  $x \in V(H_2) \setminus \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{m-3}{3} + \frac{m-6}{6} + 3 = \frac{m+2}{2} = k$ .

If  $2k = m + 3$  and  $m = 6s + 1$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , then the set  $C = \left\{a_{3j+1} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-1}{3}\right\} \cup \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$  and the set  $S = \left\{a_{3j-1} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-1}{3}\right\} \cup \left\{a_{6j-3} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-1}{6}\right\} \cup \{a_{m-1}, x\}$  for all  $x \in V(H_2) \setminus \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{m-1}{3} + \frac{m-1}{6} + 2 = \frac{m+3}{2} = k$ .

If  $2k = m + 3$  and  $m = 6s + 3$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , then the set  $C = \left\{a_{3j+1} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-3}{3}\right\} \cup \{a_m, u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$  and the set  $S = \left\{a_{3j-1} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m}{3}\right\} \cup \left\{a_{6j} : j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{m-3}{6}\right\} \cup \{a_3, x\}$  for all  $x \in V(H_2) \setminus \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{m}{3} + \frac{m-3}{6} + 2 = \frac{m+3}{2} = k$ .

Moreover,  $|V(G)| = r + m = n$ . This proves the assertion.  $\blacksquare$

**Theorem 2.4.** Given positive integers  $k, m$  and  $n$  such that  $n \geq 4$  and  $1 \leq k \leq m < n$ , there exists a connected nontrivial graph  $G$  with  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = k$ ,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = m$ , and  $|V(G)| = n$ .

*Proof.* Consider the following cases:

*Case 1.* Suppose  $1 = k = m < n$ .

Let  $G = K_n$ . Clearly,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = 1$ ,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$ , and  $|V(G)| = n$ .

*Case 2.* Suppose  $1 = k < m < n$ .

Let  $G = K_2 + P_r$ ,  $V(K_2) = \{u, v\}$ , and  $P_r = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  where  $r \geq 3$  and  $n = r + 2$ . Then the set  $A = \{u\}$  is the  $\gamma$ -set, and the set  $B = \{v\}$  is the  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = 1 = k$ . Now, the set  $C = \{u, v\}$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$ . Consider the following subcases:

*Subcase 1.* Suppose that  $r$  is even.

Let  $r = 2m$ . Then the set  $S = \left\{v_{2i} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{r}{2}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{r}{2} = m$ .

*Subcase 2.* Suppose that  $r$  is odd.

Let  $r = 2m + 1$ . The set  $S = \left\{a_{2i} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{r-1}{2}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{r-1}{2} = m$ .

Moreover,  $|V(G)| = r + 2 = n$ .

*Case 3.* Suppose  $1 < k = m < n$ .

Let  $G = P_m \circ K_2$ , where  $P_m = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m]$ ,  $V(K_2) = \{a, b\}$ ,  $m \geq 2$ , and  $n = 3m$ . Since the set  $D = V(P_m)$  is a  $\gamma$ -set of  $G$ , it follows that the  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  is

$$A = \bigcup_{i=1}^m (V(H^{v_i}) \setminus \{a\}), \text{ where } H = K_2.$$

Thus,

$$\gamma^{-1}(G) = \sum_{i=1}^m |V(H^{v_i}) \setminus \{a\}| = \sum_{i=1}^m |b| = m \cdot 1 = m = k.$$

Now, if the  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$  is  $C = D$ , then the  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  is  $S = A$ . Hence,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = m$ . Moreover,  $|V(G)| = m + 2m = n$ .

*Case 4.* Suppose  $1 < k < m < n$ .

Let  $G = P_n = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]$ . Consider  $n$  is even. Let  $n = 2m$ . If  $n = 6s - 2$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 2$ , then the set  $A = \left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n+2}{3}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n+2}{3} = k$ . If  $n = 6s$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 3$ , then the set  $A = \left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{3}\right\} \cup \{v_n\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n}{3} + 1 = k$ . If  $n = 6s + 2$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 1$ , then the set  $A = \left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n+1}{3}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n+1}{3} = k$ . Moreover, the sets  $C = \left\{v_{2i} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{2}\right\}$  and  $S = \left\{v_{2i-1} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{2}\right\}$  are  $\gamma_s$ -set and  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  respectively. Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{n}{2} = m$ .

Consider  $n$  is odd. Let  $n = 2m - 1$ . If  $n = 6s - 1$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 1$ , then the set  $A = \left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n+1}{3}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n+1}{3} = k$ . If  $n = 6s + 1$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 2$ , then the set  $A =$

$\left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n+2}{3}\right\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n+2}{3} = k$ . If  $n = 6s + 3$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $3k = n + 3$ , then the set  $A = \left\{v_{3i-2} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{3}\right\} \cup \{v_n\}$  is a  $\gamma^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $\gamma^{-1}(G) = \frac{n}{3} + 1 = k$ . Moreover, the sets  $C = \left\{v_{2i} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2}\right\}$  and  $S = \left\{v_{2i-1} : i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n+1}{2}\right\}$  are  $\gamma_s$ -set and  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  respectively. Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = \frac{n+1}{2} = m$ .

Moreover,  $|V(G)| = n$ . This proves the assertion.  $\blacksquare$

**Corollary 2.5.** The difference  $\gamma_s^{-1} - \gamma^{-1}$  can be made arbitrarily large.

Since  $\gamma_s(G)$  is the order of the minimum secure dominating set of  $G$ , it follows that  $\gamma_s(G) \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G)$ . The following remark holds.

**Remark 2.6.** Let  $G$  be a connected nontrivial graph of order  $n \geq 4$ . Then  $\gamma_s(G) \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G)$ .

**Theorem 2.7. [1]** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 1$ . Then  $\gamma_s(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G = K_n$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** Let  $G$  be a connected nontrivial graph of order  $n$ . Then  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G = K_n$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$ . Let  $S = \{v\}$  be a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Then  $S \subseteq V(G) \setminus C$  where  $C$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$ . In view of Remark 2.6,  $\gamma_s(G) \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$ . This implies  $\gamma_s(G) = 1$ . Thus,  $G = K_n$  by Theorem 2.7.

For the converse, if  $G = K_n$ , then  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 1$  is immediate.  $\blacksquare$

The following result is a quick consequence of Theorem 2.8.

**Corollary 2.9.** Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs. Then  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G + H) = 1$  if and only if  $G$  and  $H$  are complete graphs.

We need the following results for our next characterization of the inverse secure domination number of a graph  $G$ .

**Theorem 2.10. [1]** Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n \geq 3$ . Then  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$  if and only if  $G$  is non-complete and there exists distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  that dominate  $G$  and satisfy one of the following conditions:

- (i)  $N(x) \setminus \{y\} = N(y) \setminus \{x\} = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ .
- (ii)  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  and  $\langle N(y) \setminus N[x] \rangle$  are complete and for each  $u \in N(x) \cap N(y)$  either  $\langle (N(x) \setminus N[y]) \cup \{u\} \rangle$  or  $\langle (N(y) \setminus N[x]) \cup \{u\} \rangle$  is complete.

(iii)  $N(x) \setminus \{y\} = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ ,  $N(x) \setminus N[y] \neq \emptyset$  and  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  is complete.

**Lemma 2.11.** Let  $G$  be a connected non-complete graph of order  $n \geq 4$ . If  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ , then  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ . Since  $\gamma_s(G) \leq \gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$  by Remark 2.6, it follows that either  $\gamma_s(G) = 1$  or  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$ . If  $\gamma_s(G) = 1$ , then  $G = K_n$  by Theorem 2.7. This is contrary to our assumption that  $G$  is non-complete. Therefore  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$ . ■

The next result characterizes the inverse secure domination number equal to 2 of a graph  $G$ .

**Theorem 2.12.** Let  $G$  be a connected non-complete graph of order  $n \geq 4$ . Then  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$  if and only if

- (i) there exist distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are dominating sets of  $G$  and satisfy one of the following conditions:
  - a)  $N(x) \setminus \{y\} = N(y) \setminus \{x\} = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\} = V(H)$  and  $\gamma_s(H) = 2$ .
  - b)  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  and  $\langle N(y) \setminus N[x] \rangle$  are complete and for each  $u \in N(x) \cap N(y)$  either  $\langle (N(x) \setminus N[y]) \cup \{u\} \rangle$  or  $\langle (N(y) \setminus N[x]) \cup \{u\} \rangle$  is complete; or
- (ii) there exist a vertex  $x$  such that  $\{x\}$  is a dominating set in  $G$  and satisfy the following,  $N(x) \setminus \{y\} = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ ,  $N(x) \setminus N[y] \neq \emptyset$  and  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  is complete.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ . Then  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$  by Lemma 2.11. This implies that there exist distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are dominating sets of  $G$  and satisfy Theorem 2.10 (i), (ii) or (iii). Suppose first that Theorem 2.10(i) holds. Let  $C = V(K_2) = \{x, y\}$  be a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$  and let  $H = \langle V(G) \setminus C \rangle$ . Since  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ , let  $S = \{u, v\}$  be a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Then  $S \cap C = \emptyset$ . Thus  $S \subseteq (V(G) \setminus C) = V(H)$ , that is,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(H) \leq |S| = 2$ . If  $\gamma_s^{-1}(H) = 1$ , then  $H$  is a complete graph by Theorem 2.8. Thus  $G = K_2 + H$  is a complete graph contrary to our assumption that  $G$  is non-complete. Thus,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(H) = 2$ . This proves (ia). If Theorem 2.10 (ii) holds, then (ib) holds directly. Since  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ , let  $S = \{x, y\}$  be a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$ . Then  $\{x\}$  or  $\{y\}$  is a dominating set in  $G$ . Since  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$ ,  $N(x) \setminus \{y\} = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ ,  $N(x) \setminus N[y] \neq \emptyset$  and  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  is complete, by Theorem 2.10. This proves (ii).

For the converse, suppose that (i) or (ii) holds. Then  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$  by Theorem 2.10. If (i) holds, then there exist distinct vertices  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\{x\}$  and  $\{y\}$  are dominating sets of  $G$  and satisfy condition (ia) or (ib). Suppose first that (ia) holds. Let  $C = V(K_2) = \{x, y\}$ . Then  $C$  and  $(C \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{u\}$  for all  $u \in V(G) \setminus C$  are dominating sets. This implies that  $C$  be a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$ . Since  $n \geq 4$ , let  $a, b \in (V(G) \setminus C) = V(H)$ . Since  $\gamma_s(H) = 2$ , let  $S = \{a, b\}$  be a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $H$ . Now,  $S \cap C = \emptyset$  implies that  $S \subseteq (V(G) \setminus C)$  where  $C$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$ . Thus,  $S$  is a  $\gamma_s^{-1}$ -set of  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ .

Suppose that (ib) holds. Since  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$ , let  $C = \{x, y\}$  be a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$ . Let  $a \in N(x) \setminus N[y]$  and  $b \in N(y) \setminus N[x]$ . Then  $S = \{a, b\}$  and  $(S \setminus \{a\}) \cup \{z\}$  are dominating sets in  $G$  for all  $z \in N(x) \setminus N[y]$  or  $S$  and  $(S \setminus \{b\}) \cup \{w\}$  are dominating sets in  $G$  for all  $w \in N(y) \setminus N[x]$ . Thus,  $S$  is a secure dominating set in  $G$ . Moreover,  $a \in N(x) \setminus N[y]$  and  $b \in N(y) \setminus N[x]$  implies that  $S \cap C = \emptyset$ . Thus,  $S \subseteq (V(G) \setminus C)$ , where  $C$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set in  $G$  and hence  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ .

Finally, suppose that (ii) holds. Since  $N(x) \setminus N[y] \neq \emptyset$  and  $n \geq 4$ , let  $a, b \in N(x) \setminus N[y]$  and since  $\langle N(x) \setminus N[y] \rangle$  is complete,  $ab \in E(G)$ . Let  $C = \{a, y\}$ . Then,  $V(G) \setminus \{x, y\} = N(x) \setminus \{y\} = N[C] \setminus \{x, y\}$  implies that  $N[C] = V(G)$ , that is  $C$  is a dominating set of  $G$ . Similarly,  $C \setminus \{a\} \cup \{b\} = \{y, b\}$  is a dominating sets of  $G$ . Thus,  $C$  is a secure dominating set of  $G$  and hence  $C$  is  $\gamma_s$ -set since  $\gamma_s(G) = 2$  in view Theorem 2.10. Now,  $\{x\}$  is a dominating set of  $G$  implies that  $S = \{x, b\}$  and  $S \setminus \{b\} \cup \{a\}$  are dominating sets of  $G$ . Thus,  $S$  is a secure dominating set of  $G$ . Since  $S \cap C = \emptyset$ , it follows that  $S \subseteq (V(G) \setminus C)$  where  $C$  is a  $\gamma_s$ -set of  $G$ . Hence,  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$ . ■

The following result is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.12.

**Corollary 2.13.** Let  $G$  be a connected non-complete graph of order  $n \geq 4$ . Then  $\gamma_s^{-1}(G) = 2$  if  $G = \langle \{x, y\} + (K_r \cup K_{n-r-2}) \rangle$ .

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