

# On The $P_3$ Convexity of Graphs

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**Abstract:** Let  $G$  be a finite, simple undirected graph and let  $S$  be a set of vertices of  $G$ . If every vertex having two neighbors inside  $S$  is also in  $S$ , then  $S$  is a  $P_3$ -convex set. The  $P_3$ -convex hull  $H_c(S)$  of  $S$  is the smallest  $P_3$ -convex set containing  $S$ . If  $H_c(S) = V(G)$ , we say that  $S$  is a  $P_3$ -hull set of  $G$ . The cardinality  $h_c(G)$  of a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set in  $G$  is called the  $P_3$ -hull number of  $G$ . In this paper we determine the  $P_3$ -hull number of some special graphs. Characterization of a tree is obtained in terms of convex sets. Study of convex invariants also done.

**Keywords:** Convexity, Hull number.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The spread disease on a square grid is an example of a problem in which the  $P_3$ -hull number of graphs can be directly applied. In square grid some cells are infected. Iteratively, an uninfected cell becomes infected if at least two of its neighbors are so. What is the minimum number of originally infected cells to guarantee that all cells of the grid become eventually infected? We approach the above problem through  $P_3$ -convexity [4]

A family  $\mathcal{C}$  of subsets of a nonempty set  $X$  is called a convexity on  $X$  if

$$\square \in \mathcal{C}, X \in \mathcal{C}$$

$\square$  is stable for intersections, and

$\square$  is stable for nested unions

$(X, \mathcal{C})$  is called a convexity space and members of  $\mathcal{C}$  are called convex sets.

For a graph  $G$  with vertex set  $V(G)$ , a graph convexity on  $V(G)$  is a collection  $\mathcal{C}$  of subsets of  $V(G)$ , to be regarded as convex sets such that

$$\square \in \mathcal{C}, V(G) \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Arbitrary intersections of convex sets are convex.

Every nested union of convex sets are convex.

The convex hull  $H_c(S)$  of a set  $S$  of vertices of  $G$  is the smallest set in  $\mathcal{C}$  containing  $S$ . Several well known graph convexities are defined [6]. In this paper we study exclusively the  $P_3$ -convexity of graphs. The  $P_3$ -convexity was first considered for directed graphs[2].

## II. PRELIMINARIES

**Definition 2.1:** Let  $G$  be a graph. Given a set  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , the  $P_3$ -interval  $I[S]$  of  $S$  is formed by  $S$ , together with every vertex outside  $S$  with at least two neighbors in  $S$ . If  $I[S] = S$ , then  $S$  is  $P_3$ -convex. A set  $S \subseteq V(G)$  is  $P_3$ -convex, if every vertex having two neighbors inside  $S$  is also in  $S$ . The  $P_3$ -convex hull  $H_c(S)$  of  $S$  is the smallest  $P_3$ -convex set

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containing  $S$ .

The  $P_3$ -convex hull can be formed from a sequence  $I_p[S]$ , where  $p$  is a nonnegative integer,  $I_0[S] = S$ ,  $I_1[S] = I[S]$ , and  $I_p[S] = I[I_{p-1}[S]]$ , for every  $p \geq 2$ . When, for some  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $I_q[S] = I_p[S]$ , for all  $q \geq p$ , then  $I_p[S]$  is a convex set. If  $H_c(S) = V(G)$ , then  $S$  is said to be a  $P_3$ -hull set of  $G$ . The cardinality  $h_c(G)$  of a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set in  $G$  is called the  $P_3$ -hull number of  $G$  [4].

**Definition 2.2:** The Caratheodory number of  $G$  is the smallest integer  $c$  such that for every set  $S$  of vertices of  $G$  and vertex  $u$  in  $H_c(S)$ , there is a set  $F \subseteq S$  with  $|F| \leq c$  and  $u \in H_c(F)$ .

**Definition 2.3:** If  $R$  is a subset of  $G$ , then a Radon partition of  $R$  is a partition of  $R$  into two disjoint sets  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  with  $H_c(R_1) \cap H_c(R_2) = \emptyset$ . The Radon number  $r(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum integer  $r$  such that every set of  $r$  vertices of  $G$  has a Radon partition. [5]

**Definition 2.4:** A wounded spider is the graph formed by subdividing at most  $n-1$  edges of the star  $K_{1,n-1}$ .

**Definition 2.5:** From a simple graph  $G$ , Mycielski's construction produces a simple graph  $G^1$  containing  $G$ . Beginning with  $G$  having vertex set  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ , add vertices  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  and one more vertex  $w$ . Add edges to make  $u_i$  adjacent all of  $N_G(v_i)$ , and finally let  $N(w) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ .

**Definition 2.6:** Trestled graph of index  $k$ ,  $T_k(G)$  is the graph obtained from  $G$  by adding  $k$  copies of  $K_2$  for each edge  $(u, v)$  of  $G$  and joining  $u$  and  $v$  to the respective end vertices of each  $K_2$ .

**Definition 2.7:** A convexity space  $X$  is said to be join hull commutative (JHC) if for any convex set  $C$  and  $p \in X$ ,  $Co(C \cup \{p\}) = \cup \{Co(\{c, p\}) : c \in C\}$

## III. CONVEX INVARIANTS

**Theorem 3.1.**  $h_c(G) = n$  if and only if each vertex has degree less than or equal to 1.

**Proof:** If each vertex has degree less than or equal to 1. If  $S$  is a proper subset of  $V(G)$  then  $v \in V - S$  can not belong to  $P_3$ -convex hull of  $S$ . Thus minimum  $P_3$ -convex hull set is  $V$  itself. And  $h_c(G) = n$ . If  $h_c(G) = n$ , then no vertex is adjacent to more than two vertex. Each vertex is adjacent to atmost on vertex. Hence degree of each vertex is less than or equal to 1.

**Theorem 3.2.**  $h_c(G) = n-1$  if and only if  $G$  is a star, where  $G$  is a connected graph with  $n \geq 4$  vertices.

**Proof:** If  $G$  is a star  $K_{1,n-1}$ , then all the pendant vertices must be there in minimum  $P_3$ -convex hull set. Thus  $h_c(K_{1,n-1}) = n-1$ .

If  $h_c(G) = n-1$ , then there is only one vertex which



belong to convex hull of other vertices, say  $v_n$ . No vertex except possibly  $v_n$  can be adjacent to  $v_1$  and  $v_m$  for  $1 \leq l, m \leq n-1$ .  $(N[v_1] - \{v_n\}) \cap (N[v_m] - \{v_n\}) = \emptyset$ ,  $1 \leq l, m \leq n-1$ . Thus  $v_n$  is the only one vertex which is adjacent to  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . Since  $G$  is connected,  $v_i, 1 \leq i \leq n-1$  is adjacent to  $v_n$ . And thus  $G$  is a star.

**Theorem 3.3.** There exist a connected graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices and  $h_c(G) = a$ ,  $2 \leq a \leq n-1$

**Proof:** When  $a = n-1$ , If  $G = K_{1, n-1}$  then  $h_c(G) = n-1$ . For  $a \leq n-2$ , let  $G$  be the graph obtained from the star  $K_{1, n-1}$  by joining vertices  $x_{i-1}, x_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n-a$ , when  $K_{1, n-1}$  is the star with centre  $x$  and pendant vertices  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}$ . Then  $x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, \dots, x_{n-a}$  will be a minimum  $P_3$ -convex hull set and hence  $h_c(G) = a$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** If  $G$  is disconnected with at least two components  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ ,  $n(G_1) \geq 2$ ,  $n(G_2) \geq 2$ . Then  $h_c(G) = 2$ .

**Proof:**  $K_{r,s}, r, s \geq 2$  is a spanning subgraph of  $\bar{G}$ . Also  $h_c(K_{r,s}) = 2$ ,  $r, s \geq 2$  and  $h_c(K_{r,s}) \geq h_c(\bar{G})$ . But hull number of a graph is always greater than or equal to 2. Thus  $h_c(\bar{G}) = 2$ .

**Theorem 3.5.**  $h_c(G) \leq \Delta + 1$ , when  $G$  is a wounded spider.

**Proof:** If  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  be the pendant vertices of the graph. Then  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  must be contained in a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set. If at least two vertices from this set is adjacent to the vertex with degree  $\Delta$ . Then this set is a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set and  $h_c(G) = \Delta$ . Otherwise,  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \cup \{v\}$  where  $v$  is the vertex with degree  $\Delta$  will form a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set.

Thus,  $h_c(G) = \begin{cases} \Delta & \text{if centre is incident with more than one pendant vertex} \\ \Delta + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

**Theorem 3.6.**  $h_c(T_k(G)) = km$  where  $m$  is the number of edges in  $G$  and  $n \geq 3k \geq 2$ .

**Proof:** Let  $u_i^p, u_j^p$  be the  $p$ th copy of  $K_2$  added to the edge  $e_i$  with end vertices  $v_i, v_j$ . Let  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{h_c(G)}\}$  be a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set. Choose  $e_1$  incident with  $v_1$ . Inductively choose  $e_i$  incident with  $v_i$  which is different from  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{i-1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h(G)$ . Take  $S = \{u_i^p, 1 \leq i, l \leq h_c(G), 1 \leq p \leq k\}$ . Choose  $v_{i_1}$  a vertex incident with  $e_1$  for  $h(G) + 1 \leq l \leq m$ . Then take  $T = \{u_{i_1}^p, 1 \leq p \leq k, h_c(G) + 1 \leq l \leq m\}$ .

Thus  $|S \cup T| = km$  and we need at least one vertex from each copy of  $K_2$  to form the convex hull set. Thus  $h_c(G) \geq km$ . And these  $km$  vertices of  $S \cup T$  will form a minimum convex hull set of  $T_k(G)$ .

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $H$  be a connected subgraph of a graph  $G$ . Then if  $V(H)$  is the only nontrivial convex set of  $H$ , then  $H$  is a block. In particular, if  $V(G)$  is the only nontrivial convex set of  $G$ , then  $G$  is a block.

**Proof:** Suppose that  $V(H)$  is the only nontrivial convex set of  $H$ . Then, if  $w$  is a cut vertex of  $H$ , then  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are the components of  $H - w$ . Let  $v \in H_1$ , then convex hull of  $\{v, w\} \subseteq H_1$  which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $H$  is a block.

**Theorem 3.8.** Every block is a  $P_3$ -convex set.

**Proof:** Let  $B$  be a block which is not  $P_3$ -convex set. Then,

there exist a vertex  $u \in \bar{B}$  such that  $u$  has two neighbours  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  in  $B$ .  $B \cup \{u\}$  is a non separable subgraph containing  $B$  which is a contradiction to  $B$  is a block. Thus  $B$  is a  $P_3$ -convex set.

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $n$  vertices. The following statements are equivalent

- 1)  $G$  is a tree
- 2) There exist a sequence of sets  $V(G) = V_p \supset V_{p-1} \supset \dots \supset V_1$  where for each  $i, V_i$  is convex and  $|V_i| = i$
- 3) For each connected subgraph  $H$  of  $G$ ,  $V(H)$  is a convex set of  $G$ .

**Proof:** -Let  $G$  be a tree Let  $v_1$  be a pendant vertex of the tree  $G$  and  $V_{p-1} = V_p - \{v_1\}$ . Then clearly  $V_{p-1}$  is convex in  $G$ . Let  $v_2$  be a pendant vertex of  $G - v_1$  and  $V_{p-2} = V_{p-1} - \{v_2\}$ . Then clearly  $V_{p-2}$  is convex in  $G$  and so on. The sets  $V_i$ , thus formed have the property stated in 2.

Suppose that there exist a sequence of sets  $V(G) = V_p \supset V_{p-1} \supset \dots \supset V_1$  where for each  $i, V_i$  is convex and  $|V_i| = i$ . Let  $H$  be a connected subgraph of  $G$ . Then, if  $H$  is not convex there exist a point  $u \in \overline{V(H)}$  such that  $u$  has two neighbours  $v_1$  and  $v_2 \in H$  then there are two paths in between  $u$  and  $v_1$ . Since  $G$  is a tree it is not possible. Therefore,  $V(H)$  is a convex set of  $G$ .

Suppose that for each connected subgraph  $H$  of  $G$ ,  $V(H)$  is a convex set of  $G$ . If  $G$  has a cycle ' $C_n$ ' then  $C_n - v$  is a connected subgraph of  $G$ . But not convex. Thus  $G$  contains no cycle. Thus  $G$  is a tree.

**Theorem 3.10.** If  $G$  is a graph having no cycle with length  $\leq 4$  and  $n \geq 4$ , then  $h_c(G) \geq 3$ .

**Proof:**  $G$  is a graph, having the above property, then, if  $S = \{u_1, u_2\} \subseteq V(G)$ , then there exist at most one vertex adjacent with both  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ , say  $u_3$ , thus  $|I_1[S]| \leq 3$ . Also,  $u_3$  is adjacent to none of the vertices which is adjacent to  $u_1$  or  $u_2$ . Thus  $H_c(S) = I_1[S] \neq V(G)$ . Thus,  $h_c(G) \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** If  $G$  is a graph with the property  $I_1[S] = H_c(S)$ ,  $\forall S \subseteq V(G)$ , then  $G$  is a joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex graph. Converse is true for trees.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be a graph with the property  $I_1[S] = H_c(S)$ ,  $\forall S \subseteq V(G)$ , for any convex set  $C$  and  $p \in V(G)$ . If  $w \in H_c(C \cup \{p\}) - (C \cup \{p\})$ , then  $w \in I^1(C \cup \{p\})$ , then there exists  $v_1 \in C$  such that  $w$  is adjacent to  $v_1$  and  $p$ .

Then  $w \in H_c(\{v_1, p\})$ ,  $\forall v_1 \in C$ .

And so,  $H_c(C \cup \{p\}) = \cup \{H_c(\{c, p\}) : c \in C\}$

Thus,  $G$  is a joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex graph.

To prove the converse for trees, let  $T$  be a joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex tree,

If  $I_1[S] \neq H_c(S)$  for some  $S \subseteq V(T)$

Then there exist vertex  $v \in I_2[S]$  such that  $v \notin I_1[S]$ . Then there exist vertices  $v_1, v_2 \in I_1[S]$  such that  $v$  is adjacent to  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ . Then we distinguish into two cases

Case 1.

If  $v_1, v_2 \in S$ . Then there exist vertices  $v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6 \in S$  such that  $v_1$  is adjacent to  $v_3$  and  $v_4$ ,  $v_2$  is adjacent to  $v_5$  and  $v_6$ . Since  $T$  is a tree



$\{v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$  is an independent set.

If  $S = \{v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$  and  $p = v_1$ , then  $S$  is a convex set. And  $H_c(SU\{p\}) \subseteq \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6, v\}$ . But  $v \in U \setminus \{H_c(\{v, p\}) : v \in S\}$ , which contradicts the fact that  $T$  is a joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex tree.

Case 2

If  $v_1 \in S$  and  $v_2 \in S$ . Then there exist vertices  $v_3, v_4 \in S$  such that  $v_1$  is adjacent to  $v_3$  and  $v_4$ . Then  $\{v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  is an independent set and  $S = \{v_2, v_3\}$  is a convex set. Take  $p = v_4$ . Also  $H_c(SU\{p\}) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v\}$ . But  $U \setminus \{H_c(\{v, p\}) : v \in S\} = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ , which contradicts the fact that  $T$  is a joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex tree.

Thus,  $I_1[S] = H_c(S)$  for all  $S \subseteq V(T)$ .

Theorem 3.12. If  $G$  is a maximal outer planar graph with  $\text{diam}(G) > 2$ , then  $G$  has joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex property, but  $I_1[S] \neq H_c(S), S \subseteq V(G)$ .

Proof: In maximal outer planar graph  $G$  convex sets are singleton sets or  $V(G)$  or vertex set  $S$  having property distance between any two vertices is atleast 3.

Let  $p \in V(G)$

If  $S$  is either singleton or  $V(G)$  then trivially it satisfy the property  $H_c(SU\{p\}) = U \setminus \{H_c(\{v, p\}) : v \in S\}$ .

If  $S$  is the vertex set having property distance between any two vertices is atleast 3,

If there is a vertex  $v \in S$ , such that  $d(v, p) = 2$ , then  $H_c(\{v, p\}) = V(G)$ . And so,  $H_c(SU\{p\}) = U \setminus \{H_c(\{v, p\}) : v \in S\}$ .

If there is no vertex  $v \in S$ , such that  $d(v, p) = 2$ , then  $H_c(\{v, p\}) = \{v, p\}$  for all  $v$  in  $S$ . And so  $H_c(SU\{p\}) = S \cup \{p\} = U \setminus \{H_c(\{v, p\}) : v \in S\}$ .

Thus maximal outer planar graphs have joint hull commutative  $P_3$ -convex property.

Also, for any adjacent vertices  $u$  and  $w$  in  $V(G)$ , if  $S = \{u, v\}$ ,  $H_c(\{u, v\}) = V(G)$  and  $I_1[S] \neq H_c(S)$ .

Theorem 3.13. Let  $G^1$  be the graph generated by Mycielski's construction of a graph  $G$  with vertex set  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ . Then  $h_c(G^1) \leq h_c(G) + 1$ .

Let  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{h_c(G)}\}$  be a minimum  $P_3$ -hull set of a graph  $G$ . Then If  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{h_c(G)}\} \cup \{v\}$ , every vertex in  $(V(G^1) - S)$  has atleast two twoneighbours in  $S$ . Thus  $H_c(S) = V(G^1)$ . Therefore,  $S$  is a  $P_3$ -hull set of  $(G^1)$ . And  $h_c(G^1) \leq h_c(G) + 1$ .

If  $G = P_3$ , then  $h_c(G) = 2$ . And if  $G^1$  is the graph generated by Mycielski's construction of a graph  $G$ , then  $h_c(G^1) = 3$ . Thus, this bound is sharp.

Remark 3.14. For a path  $P_n, c(P_n) = 2$ .

Proof: Let  $U \subseteq V(G)$ , consider  $v \in h(U)$ . If  $|U| \leq 2$  or  $v \in U$ , there is nothing to prove. Otherwise, there exists two vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  in  $U$  which are adjacent to  $v$ . Thus, if  $F = \{v_1, v_2\}, v \in h(F)$ . Hence  $c(P_n) = 2$ .

Remark 3.15. For a complete graph  $K_n, c(K_n) = 2$ .

Proof: Let  $U \subseteq V(G)$ , consider  $v \in h(U)$ . If  $F = \{v_1, v_2\} \subseteq U$ , then  $H_c(F) = V(G)$ . Thus,  $v \in h(F)$ . Hence  $c(K_n) = 2$ .

Remark 3.16. For a cycle  $C_n, c(C_n) = 2$ .

Proof: Let  $U \subseteq V(G)$ , consider  $v \in h(U)$ . If  $v \in h(U) - U$ , then  $v \in I_1[S]$ , because the degree of each vertex is 2. Thus

there exists two vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  in  $U$  which are adjacent to  $v$ . Thus, if  $F = \{v_1, v_2\}, v \in h(F)$ . Hence  $c(C_n) = 2$ .

Remark 3.17. For a star  $K_{1,n}, c(K_{1,n}) = 2$ .

Proof: Let  $U \subseteq V(G)$ , consider  $v \in h(U)$ . If  $v \in h(U) - U$ , then  $v \in I_1[S]$ , because the only one vertex having degree greater than 2 is the center. Thus there exists two vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  in  $U$  which are adjacent to  $v$ . Thus, if  $F = \{v_1, v_2\}, v \in h(F)$ . Hence  $c(K_{1,n}) = 2$ .

Remark 3.18. For a star  $K_{1,n}, r(K_{1,n}) = 4, n \geq 3$ .

Proof: Every four element set can be partitioned into two sets having two elements for which the centre as the common element of convex hull. And for the set containing three vertices having degree one has no Radon partition. Thus  $r(K_{1,n}) = 4$ .

Remark 3.19. For a complete graph  $K_n, r(K_n) = 3$ .

Proof: Convex hull of every set having atleast two elements contain all the other vertices. Thus every three element set can be partitioned into two sets for which the convex hull of one set contains the vertex from the other set. Hence  $r(K_n) = 3$ .

Remark 3.20. For a complete bipartite graph  $K_{m,n}, r(K_{m,n}) = 3$ .

Proof: Every three element set contains atleast two vertices which are independent. And the convex hull of these vertices contain all the other vertices. Thus every three element set can be partitioned into two sets for which the convex hull of one set contains the vertex from the other set. Hence  $r(K_{m,n}) = 3$ .

#### IV. RESULTS

In this paper, we find  $P_3$ -convex set. In this paper we determine the  $P_3$ -hull number of some special graphs. Characterization of a tree is obtained in terms of convex sets. Study of convex invariants also done.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we conclude  $P_3$ -convex set, Now a days graph uses many networks and this paper how to reduce the minimized and reduce time also.

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