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# The domination number of Cartesian product of two directed paths 

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#### Abstract

Let $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)$ be the domination number of the Cartesian product of directed paths $P_{m}$ and $P_{n}$ for $m, n \geq 2$. In [13] Liu and al. determined the value of $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)$ for arbitrary $n$ and $m \leq 6$. In this work we give the exact value of $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)$ for any $m, n$ and exhibit minimum dominating sets.


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## 1 Introduction and definitions

Let $G=(V, E)$ be a finite directed graph (digraph for short) without loops or multiple arcs.

A vertex $u$ dominates a vertex $v$ if $u=v$ or $u v \in E$. A set $S \subset V$ is a dominating set of $G$ if any vertex of $G$ is dominated by at least a vertex of $S$. The domination number of $G$, denoted by $\gamma(G)$ is the minimum cardinality of a dominating set. The set $V$ is a dominating set thus $\gamma(G)$ is finite. These definitions extend to digraphs the classical domination notion for undirected graphs.

The determination of domination number of a directed or undirected graph is, in general, a difficult question in graph theory. Furthermore this problem has connections with information theory. For example the domination number of Hypercubes is linked to error-correcting codes. Among the lot of related works ([7], [8]) mention the special case of domination of Cartesian product of undirected paths or cycles ([1] to [6], [9], [10]).

[^0]For two digraphs, $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{1}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$, the Cartesian product $G_{1} \square G_{2}$ is the digraph with vertex set $V_{1} \times V_{2}$ and $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)\left(y_{1}, y_{2}\right) \in E\left(G_{1} \square G_{2}\right)$ if and only if $x_{1} y_{1} \in E_{1}$ and $x_{2}=y_{2}$ or $x_{2} y_{2} \in E_{2}$ and $x_{1}=y_{1}$. Note that $G \square H$ is isomorphic to $H \square G$.

The domination number of Cartesian product of two directed cycles have been recently investigated ([11], [12], [14], [15]). Even more recently, Liu and al.([13]) began the study of the domination number of the Cartesian product of two directed paths $P_{m}$ and $P_{n}$. They proved the following result

Theorem 1 Let $n \geq 2$. Then

- $\gamma\left(P_{2} \square P_{n}\right)=n$
- $\gamma\left(P_{3} \square P_{n}\right)=n+\left\lceil\frac{n}{4}\right\rceil$
- $\gamma\left(P_{4} \square P_{n}\right)=n+\left\lceil\frac{2 n}{3}\right\rceil$
- $\gamma\left(P_{5} \square P_{n}\right)=2 n+1$
- $\gamma\left(P_{6} \square P_{n}\right)=2 n+\left\lceil\frac{n+2}{3}\right\rceil$.

In this paper we are able to give a complete solution of the problem. In Theorem 2 we determine the value of $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)$ for any $m, n \geq 2$. When $m$ grows, the cases approach appearing in the proof of Theorem 1 seems to be more and more complicated. We proceed by a different and elementary method, but will assume that Theorem 1 is already obtained (at least for $m \leq 5$ and arbitrary $n$ ). In the next section we describe three dominating sets of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$ corresponding to the different values of $m$ modulo 3 . In the last section we prove that these dominating sets are minimum and deduce our main result:

Theorem 2 Let $n \geq 2$. Then

- $\gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor$ for $k \geq 2$ and $n \neq 3$
- $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil$ for $k \geq 1$ and $n \neq 3$
- $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+n$ for $k \geq 0$ and $n \neq 3$
- $\gamma\left(P_{3} \square P_{n}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{n} \square P_{3}\right)=n+\left\lceil\frac{n}{4}\right\rceil$.

We will follow the notations used by Liu and al. and refer to their paper for a more complete description of the motivations. Let us recall some of these notations.

We denote the vertices of a directed path $P_{n}$ by the integers $\{0,1, \ldots, n-1\}$. For any $i$ in $\{0,1, \ldots, n-1\}, P_{m}^{i}$ is the subgraph of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$ induced by the vertices $\{(k, i) / k \in\{0,1, \ldots, m-1\}\}$. Note that $P_{m}^{i}$ is isomorphic to $P_{m}$. Notice also that $P_{m} \square P_{n}$ is isomorphic to $P_{n} \square P_{m}$ thus $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{n} \square P_{m}\right)$. A vertex $(a, b) \in P_{m}^{b}$ can be dominated by $(a, b),(a-1, b) \in P_{m}^{b}($ if $a \geq 1),(a, b-1) \in P_{m}^{b-1}$ (if $\left.b \geq 1\right)$.

## 2 Three Dominating sets

We will first study $P_{3 k} \square P_{n}$ for $k \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$. Consider the following sets of vertices of $P_{3 k}$.

- $X=\{0,1,3,4, \ldots, 3 k-3,3 k-2\}=\{3 i / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\} \cup\{3 i+1 / i \in$ $\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $Y=\{2,5,8, \ldots, 3 k-1\}=\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $I=\{0,3,6, \ldots, 3 k-3\}=\{3 i / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $J=\{1,4,7, \ldots, 3 k-2\}=\{3 i+1 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $K=\{0,2,5,8 \ldots, 3 k-1\}=\{0\} \cup\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$.

Let $D_{n}$ (see Figure 1) be the set of vertices of $P_{3 k} \square P_{n}$ consisting of the vertices


Figure 1: The dominating set $D_{n}$

- $(a, 0)$ for $a \in X$
- $(a, 1)$ for $a \in Y$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 2 \bmod 3(2 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in I$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 0 \bmod 3(3 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in J$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 1 \bmod 3(4 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in K$.

Lemma 3 For any $k \geq 1, n \geq 2$ the set $D_{n}$ is a dominating set of $P_{3 k} \square P_{n}$ and $\left|D_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor$.

Proof : It is immediate to verify that

- All vertices of $P_{3 k}$ are dominated by the vertices of $X$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k}$ not dominated by some of $Y$ are $\{0,1,4, \ldots, 3 k-2\} \subset X$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k}$ not dominated by some of $I$ are $\{2,5, \ldots, 3 k-1\}=Y \subset$ K
- The vertices of $P_{3 k}$ not dominated by some of $J$ are $\{0,3,6, \ldots, 3 k-3\} \subset I$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k}$ not dominated by some of $K$ are $\{4,7, \ldots, 3 k-2\} \subset J$.

Therefore any vertex of some $P_{3 k}^{i}$ is dominated by a vertex in $P_{3 k}^{i} \cap D_{n}$ or in $P_{3 k}^{i-1} \cap D_{n}($ if $i \geq 1)$. Furthermore $|X|=2 k,|Y|=|I|=|J|=k$, and $|K|=k+1$ thus $\left|D_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor$.

Let us study now $P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}$ for $k \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$. Consider the following sets of vertices of $P_{3 k+1}$.

- $X=\{0,2,4,5,7,8, \ldots, 3 k-2,3 k-1\}=\{0\} \cup\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\} \cup$ $\{3 i+1 / i \in\{1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $I=\{0,3,6, \ldots, 3 k\}=\{3 i / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k\}\}$
- $J=\{1,4,7, \ldots, 3 k-2\}=\{3 i+1 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $K=\{0,2,5,8, \ldots, 3 k-1\}=\{0\} \cup\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$.


Figure 2: The dominating set $E_{n}$

Let $E_{n}$ (see Figure 2) be the set of vertices of $P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}$ consisting of the vertices

- $(a, 0)$ for $a \in X$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 1 \bmod 3(1 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in I$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 2 \bmod 3(2 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in J$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 0 \bmod 3(3 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in K$.

Lemma 4 For any $k \geq 1, n \geq 2$ the set $E_{n}$ is a dominating set of $P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}$ and $\left|E_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil$.

Proof : It is immediate to verify that

- All vertices of $P_{3 k+1}$ are dominated by the vertices of $X$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+1}$ not dominated by some of $I$ are $\{2,5, \ldots, 3 k-1\} \subset K$ $\subset X$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+1}$ not dominated by some of $J$ are $\{0,3,6, \ldots, 3 k\}=I$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+1}$ not dominated by some of $K$ are $\{4,7, \ldots, 3 k-2\} \subset J$.

Therefore any vertex of some $P_{3 k+1}^{i}$ is dominated by a vertex in $P_{3 k+1}^{i} \cap E_{n}$ or in $P P_{3 k+1}^{i-1} \cap E_{n}($ if $i \geq 1)$. Furthermore $|X|=2 k,|I|=|K|=k+1$, and $|J|=k$ thus $\left|E_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil$.

The last case will be $P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}$ for $k \geq 0$ and $n \geq 2$. Consider the following sets of vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$.

- $X=\{0,1,3,4, \ldots, 3 k, 3 k+1\}=\{3 i / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k\}\} \cup\{3 i+1 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k\}\}$
- $Y=\{2,5,8, \ldots, 3 k-1\}=\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$
- $I=\{0,3,6, \ldots, 3 k\}=\{3 i / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k\}\}$
- $J=\{1,4,7, \ldots, 3 k+1\}=\{3 i+1 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k\}\}$
- $K=\{0,2,5,8 \ldots, 3 k-1\}=\{0\} \cup\{3 i+2 / i \in\{0,1, \ldots k-1\}\}$.


Figure 3: The dominating set $F_{n}$

Let $F_{n}$ (see Figure 3) be the set of vertices of $P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}$ consisting of the vertices

- $(a, 0)$ for $a \in X$
- $(a, 1)$ for $a \in Y$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 2 \bmod 3(2 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in I$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 0 \bmod 3(3 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in J$
- $(a, b)$ for $b \equiv 1 \bmod 3(4 \leq b<n)$ and $a \in K$.

Lemma 5 For any $k \geq 0, n \geq 2$, the set $F_{n}$ is a dominating set of $P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}$ and $\left|F_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+n$.

Proof: It is immediate to verify that

- All vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$ are dominated by the vertices of $X$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$ not dominated by some of $Y$ are $\{0,1,4, \ldots, 3 k+1\} \subset$ X
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$ not dominated by some of $I$ are $\{2,5, \ldots, 3 k-1\}=Y \subset$ K
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$ not dominated by some of $J$ are $\{0,3, \ldots, 3 k\}=I$
- The vertices of $P_{3 k+2}$ not dominated by some of $K$ are $\{4,7, \ldots, 3 k+1\} \subset J$.

Therefore any vertex of some $P_{3 k+2}^{i}$ is dominated by a vertex in $P_{3 k+2}^{i} \cap F_{n}$ or in $P_{3 k+2}^{i-1} \cap F_{n}$ (if $i \geq 1$ ). Furthermore $|X|=2 k+2,|Y|=k$ and $|I|=|J|=|K|=k+1$, thus $\left|F_{n}\right|=k(n+1)+n$.

## 3 Optimality of the three sets

The structure of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$ implies the following strong property.
Proposition 6 Let $S$ be a dominating set of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$. For any $n^{\prime} \leq n$ consider

$$
S_{n^{\prime}}=\bigcup_{i=0, \ldots, n^{\prime}-1} P_{m}^{i} \cap S
$$

Then $S_{n^{\prime}}$ is a dominating set of $P_{m} \square P_{n^{\prime}}$.
Notice that the three sets $D_{n}, E_{n}, F_{n}$ satisfy, for example, $\left(D_{n}\right)_{n^{\prime}}=D_{n^{\prime}}$ therefore we can use the same notation without ambiguity.

If $S$ is a dominating set of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$, for any $i$ in $\{0,1, \ldots, \mathrm{n}-1\}$ let $s_{i}=\left|P_{m}^{i} \cap S\right|$. We have thus $|S|=\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} s_{i}$.

Proposition 7 Let $S$ be a dominating set of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$. Let $i \in\{1,2, \ldots, n-1\}$ then $s_{i-1}+2 s_{i} \geq m$.

Proof : Any vertex of $P_{m}^{i}$ must be dominated by some vertex of $P_{m}^{i} \cap S$ or of $P_{m}^{i-1} \cap S$. A vertex in $P_{m}^{i} \cap S$ dominates at most two vertices of $P_{m}^{i}$ and a vertex in $P_{m}^{i-1} \cap S$ dominates a unique vertex of $P_{m}^{i}$.

Lemma 8 Let $k \geq 0$ and $n \geq 2, n \neq 3$, then $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+n$.
Proof: The case $n=2$ is immediate by Theorem 1 . Let $S$ be a dominating set of $P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}$ with $n \geq 4$.

By Proposition $7, s_{i} \leq k$ implies $s_{i-1}+s_{i} \geq m-s_{i} \geq 2 k+2$. Therefore for any $i \in\{2, \ldots, n-1\}$ we get $s_{i} \geq k+1$ or $s_{i-1}+s_{i} \geq 2(k+1)$.
Apply the following algorithm:

```
\(I:=\emptyset ; J:=\emptyset ; i:=n-1 ;\)
while \(i \geq 5\) do
    if \(s_{i} \geq k+1\) then
            \(I:=I \cup\{i\} ; i:=i-1\)
    else
        \(J:=J \cup\{i, i-1\} ; i:=i-2\)
    end if
end while
```

If $n=4$ or $n=5$ the algorithm only sets $I$ and $J$ to $\emptyset$. In the general case, the algorithm stop when $i=3$ or $i=4$ and we get two disjoint sets $I, J$ with $\{0,1, \ldots, n-1\}=\{0,1,2,3\} \cup I \cup J$ or $\{0,1, \ldots, n-1\}=\{0,1,2,3,4\} \cup I \cup J$. Furthermore $\sum_{i \in I} s_{i} \geq|I|(k+1)$ and $\sum_{i \in J} s_{i} \geq|J|(k+1)$. We have thus one of the two inequalities

$$
|S|-\left(s_{0}+s_{1}+s_{2}+s_{3}\right) \geq(n-4)(k+1)
$$

or

$$
|S|-\left(s_{0}+s_{1}+s_{2}+s_{3}+s_{4}\right) \geq(n-5)(k+1) .
$$

In the first case by Proposition 6 and Theorem 1 we get $s_{0}+s_{1}+s_{2}+s_{3} \geq$ $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+2} \square P_{4}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{4} \square P_{3 k+2}\right)=3 k+2+\left\lceil\frac{6 k+4}{3}\right\rceil=5 k+4$. Thus $|S| \geq(n+1) k+n$. In the second case we get $s_{0}+s_{1}+s_{2}+s_{3}+s_{4} \geq \gamma\left(P_{5} \square P_{3 k+2}\right)=6 k+5$. Thus again $|S| \geq(n+1) k+n$.
Therefore for any $n \geq 4$ we have $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+2} \square P_{n}\right) \geq k(n+1)+n$ and the equality occurs by Lemma 5 .
Notice that, by Theorem 1, $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+2} \square P_{3}\right)=3 k+2+\left\lceil\frac{3 k+2}{4}\right\rceil \neq 4 k+3$ for $k \geq 1$.
Lemma 9 Let $k \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2, n \neq 3$, then $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil$.
Proof: Consider some fixed $k \geq 1$. Notice first that by Theorem 1, $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{2}\right)=$ $3 k+1, \gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{4}\right)=5 k+2$ and $\gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{5}\right)=6 k+3$ thus the result is true for $n \leq 5$.
We knows, by Lemma 4, that for any $n \geq 2$ the set $E_{n}$ is a dominating set of $P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}$ and $\left|E_{n}\right|=(n+1) k+\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil$.

We will prove now that $E_{n}$ is a minimum dominating set .
If this is not true consider $n$ minimum, $n \geq 2$, such that there exists a dominating set $S$ of $P_{3 k+1} \square P_{n}$ with $|S|<\left|E_{n}\right|$. We knows that $n \geq 6$.
For $n^{\prime} \leq n$ let $S_{n^{\prime}}=\cup_{i=0, . ., n^{\prime}-1} P_{3 k+1}^{i} \cap S$ and $s_{n^{\prime}}=\left|P_{3 k+1}^{n^{\prime}} \cap S\right|$.
Case $1 n=3 p, p \geq 2$.
Notice first that $\left|E_{n}\right|-\left|E_{n-1}\right|=k$ and $\left|E_{n}\right|-\left|E_{n-2}\right|=2 k+1$. We have also by hypothesis $|S| \leq\left|E_{n}\right|-1$. By minimality of $n, E_{n-1}$ is minimum thus $\left|S_{n-1}\right| \geq$ $\left|E_{n-1}\right|$. Therefore $s_{n-1}=|S|-\left|S_{n-1}\right| \leq\left|E_{n}\right|-1-\left|E_{n-1}\right|=k-1$. On the other hand, by Proposition $7, s_{n-2}+2 s_{n-1} \geq 3 k+1$ thus $s_{n-2}+s_{n-1} \geq(3 k+1)-(k-1)=2 k+2$. This implies $\left|S_{n-2}\right| \leq\left|S_{n}\right|-2 k-2 \leq\left|E_{n}\right|-2 k-3<\left|E_{n}\right|-2 k-1=\left|E_{n-2}\right|$, thus $E_{n-2}$ is not minimum in contradiction with $n$ minimum.

Case $2 n=3 p+1, p \geq 2$.
In this case we have $\left|E_{n}\right|-\left|E_{n-1}\right|=k+1$ and $\left|E_{n}\right|-\left|E_{n-2}\right|=2 k+1$. We have also by hypothesis $|S| \leq\left|E_{n}\right|-1$. By minimality of $n$, $E_{n-1}$ is minimum thus $\left|S_{n-1}\right| \geq\left|E_{n-1}\right|$. Therefore $s_{n-1}=|S|-\left|S_{n-1}\right| \leq\left|E_{n}\right|-1-\left|E_{n-1}\right|=k$. On the other hand, by Proposition $7, s_{n-2}+2 s_{n-1} \geq 3 k+1$ thus $s_{n-2}+s_{n-1} \geq 2 k+1$. This implies $\left|S_{n-2}\right| \leq\left|S_{n}\right|-2 k-1<\left|E_{n}\right|-2 k-1=\left|E_{n-2}\right|$, thus $E_{n-2}$ is not minimum in contradiction with $n$ minimum.

Case $3 n=3 p+2, p \geq 2$.
In this case, $\left|E_{n}\right|-\left|E_{n-2}\right|=2 k+2$ and we cannot proceed like case 1 and case 2 . Hopefully, by Lemma $8, \gamma\left(P_{3 k+1} \square P_{3 p+2}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{3 p+2} \square P_{3 k+1}\right)=p(3 k+2)+3 k+1=$ $k(3 p+3)+2 p+1$. Therefore, since $n+1=3 p+3$ and $\left\lceil\frac{2 n-3}{3}\right\rceil=2 p+1, E_{n}$ is minimum.

Lemma 10 Let $k \geq 2$ and $n \geq 2, n \neq 3$ then $\gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{n}\right)=k(n+1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor$.
Proof :
Case $1 n=3 p+1, p \geq 1$.
By Lemma $9, \gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{3 p+1}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{3 p+1} \square P_{3 k}\right)=p(3 k+1)+2 k-1=k(3 p+2)+p-1$. We obtain the conclusion since $3 p+2=n+1$ and $\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor=p-1$.

Case $2 n=3 p+2, p \geq 0$.
By Lemma 8, $\gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{3 p+2}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{3 p+2} \square P_{3 k}\right)=p(3 k+1)+3 k=k(3 p+3)+p$. We obtain again the conclusion since $3 p+3=n+1$ and $\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor=p$.

Case $3 n=3 p, p \geq 2$.
We knows, by Lemma 3, that the set $D_{n}$ is a dominating set of $P_{3 k} \square P_{n}$ and $\left|D_{n}\right|=$ $k(n+1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-2}{3}\right\rfloor$.

If $D_{n}$ is not a minimum dominating set let $S$ be a dominating set with $|S|<\left|D_{n}\right|$. For $n^{\prime} \leq n$ let $S_{n^{\prime}}=\cup_{i=0, \ldots, n^{\prime}-1} P_{3 k}^{i} \cap S$ and $s_{n^{\prime}}=\left|P_{3 k}^{n^{\prime}} \cap S\right|$.
Because $n=3 p$ and $p \geq 2$ we get $\left|D_{n}\right|-\left|D_{n-1}\right|=k$ and $\left|D_{n}\right|-\left|D_{n-2}\right|=2 k+1$. We have also by hypothesis $|S| \leq\left|D_{n}\right|-1$. Notice that, by Lemma $8, \gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{n-1}\right)=$ $\gamma\left(P_{3 p-1} \square P_{3 k}\right)=(p-1)(3 k+1)+3 k=k n+\left\lfloor\frac{n-3}{3}\right\rfloor=\left|D_{n-1}\right|$ thus $D_{n-1}$ is minimum and $\left|S_{n-1}\right| \geq\left|D_{n-1}\right|$.

Therefore $s_{n-1}=|S|-\left|S_{n-1}\right| \leq\left|D_{n}\right|-1-\left|D_{n-1}\right|=k-1$. By Proposition $7, s_{n-2}+2 s_{n-1} \geq 3 k$ thus $s_{n-2}+s_{n-1} \geq 2 k+1$. This implies $\left|S_{n-2}\right| \leq$ $|S|-2 k-1<\left|D_{n}\right|-2 k-1=\left|D_{n-2}\right|$. On the other hand, by Lemma 9, $\gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{3 p-2}\right)=\gamma\left(P_{3 p-2} \square P_{3 k}\right)=(p-1)(3 k+1)+2 k-1=k(n-1)+\left\lfloor\frac{n-4}{3}\right\rfloor=\left|D_{n-2}\right|$ thus $D_{n-2}$ is minimum, a contradiction.

Notice that, by Theorem 1, $\gamma\left(P_{3 k} \square P_{3}\right)=3 k+\left\lceil\frac{3 k}{4}\right\rceil \neq 4 k$ for $k \geq 3$.

## 4 Conclusions

Putting together Lemma 8, Lemma 9, Lemma 10 and the case $m=3$ or $n=3$, we obtain $\gamma\left(P_{m} \square P_{n}\right)$ for any $m, n$ (Theorem 2).
As a conclusion, notice that the minimum dominating sets we build for $P_{5} \square P_{n}$ and
$P_{6} \square P_{n}$ are different than those proposed by Liu and al.([13]). An open problem would be to characterize all minimum dominating sets of $P_{m} \square P_{n}$.

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