

On Connectivity of Zero-Divisor Graphs and Complement Graphs of some Semi-Local Rings

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Received: 31 October 2022/ Accepted: 23 November 2022/ Published online: 09 December 2022

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Abstract

Zero-divisor graphs have been a key area of focus for many researchers. For the semi local ring R of finite cartesian product of finite fields, we consider the zero divisor graph of R denoted by $\Gamma(R)$ with vertex set as the non-zero zero-divisors of R where two vertices u and v are adjacent if and only if the product of u and v is the additive identity of the Ring R . The objective of this paper is to determine the number of cut vertices and cut edges, vertex connectivity and edge connectivity of the zero divisor graph $\Gamma(R)$ and complement graph $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$.

Key words: Zero-divisor graphs, Cut vertices, Cut edges, Vertex connectivity, Edge connectivity.

AMS classification: 13A70, 05C25, 05C40.

1 Introduction

Zero divisors graphs have been studied on general rings. The idea of Zero Divisor graphs of a commutative ring R has been introduced by I. Beck [3]. Originally all the elements of the ring R has been considered as vertices of this graph and two vertices u and v are adjacent if and only if $u \cdot v = 0$. This definition is modified by Anderson and Livingston [2] wherein the vertex set is reduced to only the set of non-zero zero divisors of R . Let $n \geq 2$ and F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n be finite fields then $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$ is a semi local ring. Let $Z^*(R)$ denote the set of non-zero, zero-divisors of R and let $\Gamma(R)$ denote the graph with vertex set as $Z^*(R)$ and edge set as $\{xy : x \cdot y = 0, x, y \in Z^*(R)\}$ [4]. Since $Z(R)$ is closed under multiplication, the complement graph $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ of the zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(R)$ satisfies the property: $rs \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ if and only if $r \cdot s \in Z^*(R)$. [1]

For basic graph theoretical terminologies we adopt the definitions of [6]. A vertex v is called as cut vertex of a graph G if number of components of $G - v$ is greater than

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the number of components of G and an edge e of a graph G is said to be a cut edge if number of components of $G - e$ is greater than the number of components of G [6]. A subset $S \subset V(G)$ is said to be a vertex cut if $G - S$ is disconnected or has only one vertex and the cardinality of a minimum vertex cut is called as vertex connectivity of a graph G , denoted by $\kappa(G)$ [6]. Similarly $F \subset E(G)$ is said to be an edge cut if $G - F$ is disconnected and minimum size of an edge cut is called the edge connectivity of a graph G , denoted by $\lambda(G)$. [7] In this paper, we determine the number of cut vertices, cut edges, vertex connectivity, edge connectivity of zero divisor graph over the ring $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \cdots \times F_n, (n \geq 2)$, where F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n are finite fields.

2 Cut vertices and Cut edges, Vertex connectivity and Edge connectivity

Remark 2.1 If $R = F_1 \times F_2$, and $|F_1| = |F_2| = 2$, then $\Gamma(R)$ is K_2 and does not contain cut vertex. Further, if $R = F_1 \times F_2$ with $|F_1| \geq 2, |F_2| \geq 2$, then it is easy to check $\Gamma(R)$ is a complete bipartite graph $K_{1,|F_2|-1}$ or $K_{|F_1|-1,1}$ which is also a tree. Hence, the number of cut vertices in this case is 1. [6]

Theorem 2.2 (i) Let $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \cdots \times F_n$ with $|F_i| = 2, (1 \leq i \leq n)$. If $n \geq 3$ then the Zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(R)$ has exactly n cut vertices.

(ii) Let $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \cdots \times F_n$ with $|F_1| \leq |F_2| \leq \cdots \leq |F_n|$. If $n \geq 2$ and $|F_1| \geq 3$ or if $n \geq 3$ and $|F_2| \geq 3$ then the Zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(R)$ has no cut vertex.

Proof: (i) Let $n \geq 3$ and $|F_i| = 2, (1 \leq i \leq n)$. There are $C(n, r)$ vertices of degree $2^r - 1, (1 \leq r \leq n - 1)$ in $\Gamma(R)$. Let $V_r = \{v \in V(\Gamma(R)) : v \text{ has exactly } r \text{ number of zero entries in its coordinates}\}, (1 \leq r \leq n - 1)$. A vertex in the set V_{n-1} has unique '1' say at i^{th} position and all the $n - 1$ positions have '0' entries. A vertex in the set V_1 has '0' in i^{th} position and '1' in all other positions. Thus elements of V_1 are of degree '1'. A vertex in V_{n-1} is adjacent to a unique vertex in V_1 and thus every vertex of V_{n-1} is a cut vertex. Further V_1 has no cut vertex and $\langle V_1 \cup V_{n-1} \rangle$ is connected. We will prove that for every $z \in V(\Gamma(R)) \setminus \{V_1 \cup V_{n-1}\}$ is not a cut vertex. Suppose, $z \in V_r, (2 \leq r \leq n - 2)$. We will prove that $\Gamma(R) - z$ is connected. Now $z \in V_r \implies z$ contain non-zero entries, that is '1' in $n - r$ positions, $t_1, \dots, t_{n-r}, (2 \leq r \leq n - 2)$ with $(1 \leq t_1 < \dots < t_{n-r} \leq n)$. Let $y_1, y_2 \in \{V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_{n-2}\} - z$. Since, y_1 and y_2 contains at least two '0's, both are adjacent to at least two vertices in V_{n-1} . If y_1 and y_2 are adjacent to same vertex, say, x in V_{n-1} , then y_1, x, y_2 is a path connecting y_1 and y_2 . If y_1 and y_2 are adjacent to different vertices, say, x_1 and x_2 in V_{n-1} , then

since, x_1 and x_2 are adjacent in V_{n-1} , we have a path y_1, x_1, x_2, y_2 connecting y_1 and y_2 and this path does not contain z . Thus every pair of vertices

(a) $y_1, y_2 \in \{V_1 \cup V_{n-1}\}$

(b) $y_1, y_2 \in \{V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_{n-2}\} - z$

(c) one of $y_1, y_2 \in \{V_1 \cup V_{n-1}\}$ and the other $\in \{V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_{n-2}\} - z$

are connected in a path not containing z . Therefore, $\Gamma(R) - z$ is connected. Thus, z is not a cut vertex. Hence, the zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(R)$ of semi-local ring $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$ with $|F_1| = |F_2| = \dots = |F_n| = 2, (n \geq 3)$, has exactly $|V_{n-1}| = n$ cut vertices.

(ii) Case(1): Let $n \geq 2, |F_1| \geq 3$. We prove that $v \in V(\Gamma(R))$ is not a cut vertex.

That is, we prove that $\Gamma(R) - v$ is connected. For $x, y \in \Gamma(R) - v$ if $xy \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$, then nothing to prove. Suppose $xy \notin E(\Gamma(R) - v)$. Clearly x, y contains at least one entry as '0' in its coordinates. Let x contains '0' in i^{th} position and y contains '0' in j^{th} position. It is possible that $i = j$.

Let $V_{n-1} = \{u \in V(\Gamma(R)) : u \text{ has exactly } n - 1 \text{ number of '0' entries in its coordinates}\}$. Note that there exists $(|F_i| - 1)$ vertices in $V_{n-1} \subset V(\Gamma(R))$ containing non zero entry in i^{th} position. \Rightarrow There exists at least $(|F_i| - 2)$ vertices in $V(\Gamma(R) - v)$ containing non zero entry in i^{th} position.

Since $|F_1| \leq |F_2| \leq \dots \leq |F_n|$ and $|F_1| \geq 3 \Rightarrow |F_i| - 2 \geq 1, (1 \leq i \leq n)$ and hence there is at least one vertex say $z \in V(\Gamma(R) - v)$ with one non-zero entry in i^{th} position and '0' every where else. Clearly $xz \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$. Similarly there is at least one vertex say $w \in V(\Gamma(R) - v)$ with one non-zero entry in j^{th} position and '0' every where else with $yw \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$. Further any two vertices in V_{n-1} with non-zero entries in different positions are adjacent. Thus, if $i = j$ then x and y are joined by the path $x - z - y$ and if $i \neq j$ then x and y are joined by the path $x - z - w - y$ in $\Gamma(R) - v$. $\Rightarrow \Gamma(R) - v$ is connected $\Rightarrow v$ is not a cut vertex in $\Gamma(R)$.

Case(2): Let $n \geq 3, |F_2| \geq 3$. If $|F_1| \geq 3$, then by case (i) $\Gamma(R)$ has no cut vertex. Suppose $|F_1| = 2, |F_2| \geq 3$. For $v \in V(\Gamma(R))$ we prove that $\Gamma(R) - v$ is connected. For $x, y \in \Gamma(R) - v$ if $xy \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$, we have nothing to prove. Let $xy \notin E(\Gamma(R) - v)$ and V_{n-1} be as defined in case (i). Note that x, y have '0' entry in at least one position. Let x has '0' entry at position i and y has '0' entry in position j where $1 \leq i, j \leq n$. Further there exists a position say $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$ such that x, y both have non zero entry in position k .

If $k = 1$, then there exists at least two vertices in V_{n-1} with '0' entry in position 1 and non zero entry in i and j position. This is possible as $n \geq 3$ and $|F_2| \geq 3$. Thus

there is a vertex $z \in \Gamma(R) - v$, such that $xz, yz \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$ to get a path $x - z - y$ in $\Gamma(R) - v$.

If $k \neq 1$, then clearly there exists at least two vertices in V_{n-1} with '0' entry in position 1 and non-zero entry in position i as $n \geq 3$ and hence there is a vertex $z_1 \in \Gamma(R) - v$ such that $xz_1 \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$. Similarly there is a vertex $z_2 \in \Gamma(R) - v$ such that $yz_2 \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$. If $i = j \implies z_1 = z_2$, then $x - z_1 - y$ is a path in $\Gamma(R) - v$. If $z_1 \neq z_2$, then since $z_1z_2 \in E(\Gamma(R) - v)$ we get, a $x - z_1 - z_2 - y$ path in $\Gamma(R) - v$ and hence v is not a cut vertex. Hence there is no cut vertex in $\Gamma(R)$ in this case also.

Theorem 2.3 (i) If $R = F_1 \times F_2$ with $|F_1| = 2$ then there are $|F_2| - 1$ cut edges in $\Gamma(R)$ and if $|F_2| = 2$ then there are $|F_1| - 1$ cut edges in $\Gamma(R)$.

(ii) If $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$ with $|F_i| = 2$, ($1 \leq i \leq n$) and $n \geq 3$ then the $\Gamma(R)$ has exactly n cut edges.

(iii) If $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$ with $|F_1| \leq |F_2| \leq \dots \leq |F_n|$ and if $n \geq 2$ with $|F_1| \geq 3$ or if $n \geq 3$ with $|F_2| \geq 3$ then $\Gamma(R)$ has no cut edges.

Proof: (i) If $|F_1| = 2$, then $\Gamma(R) = K_{1,|F_2|-1}$ which contains exactly $|F_2| - 1$ edges and each edge is a cut edge. If $|F_2| = 2$, then $\Gamma(R) = K_{|F_1|-1,1}$ which contains exactly $|F_1| - 1$ edges and each edge is a cut edge. (ii) Let $n \geq 3$ and $|F_i| = 2$, ($1 \leq i \leq n$). A vertex with '0' in one position and '1' in remaining positions is a degree 1 vertex and hence the unique edge adjacent to this vertex is a cut edge. There are n vertices of degree 1 in $\Gamma(R)$ and hence $\Gamma(R)$ contains at least n cut edges. Let $E_C(\Gamma(R))$ be the set of all these n cut edges.

Now let $e = uv \in E(\Gamma(R)) \setminus E_C(\Gamma(R))$. Then both the endpoints u and v of edge e contain '0' in at least two positions. Suppose, u contains '0' in i^{th} and j^{th} position where $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ and v contains '0' in l^{th} and m^{th} position where $1 \leq l < m \leq n$. Note that i, j may be equal to l, m . Further u is adjacent to vertex v_i containing '1' in i^{th} position and '0' in all other positions and v is adjacent to vertex v_l containing '1' in l^{th} position and '0' in all other positions.

If $i = l$ then $uv_i v u$ is a cycle and hence uv is not a cut edge.

If $i \neq l$ then $v_i v_l$ is an edge and $uv_i v_l v u$ is a cycle and hence uv is not a cut edge.

Therefore, the zero divisor graph of Semi-local ring $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$ with $|F_1| = |F_2| = \dots = |F_n| = 2$, ($n \geq 3$) has exactly $|E_C(\Gamma(R))| = n$ cut edges.

(iii) By property of cut edge, $e = uv$ is a cut edge \implies either u or v is a cut vertex. By theorem, 2.2, for $n \geq 2$ and $|F_1| \geq 3$ or $n \geq 3$, $|F_1| = 2$, $|F_2| \geq 3$, $\Gamma(R)$ has no cut

vertex $\Rightarrow \Gamma(R)$ has no cut edge.

Theorem 2.4 $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ has no cut vertex.

Proof: For $n = 2$, $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is disconnected and hence has no cut vertex. If $n \geq 3$, we show that $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is connected and diameter of $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is 2. [5] Let $u, v \in V(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. If $(u, v) \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$, then $d(u, v) = 1$. Suppose, $(u, v) \notin E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Then u and v do not contain non-zero entries in the same position. Let u contains $t_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m_i - 1\}$ in the i^{th} position and v contains $t_j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m_j - 1\}$ in the j^{th} position. Clearly, $i \neq j$. Let $z \in V(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) \setminus \{u, v\}$ contain non-zero entry in the i^{th} and j^{th} position and '0' elsewhere. Then, clearly, $(u, z), (v, z) \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Therefore, $u - z - v$ is a path connecting u and v . Thus, $d(u, v) = 2$. Hence, $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is connected and diameter of $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is 2.

Let $v \in \overline{\Gamma(R)}$. We prove that v is not a cut vertex. Let $x, y \in \overline{\Gamma(R)} - v$. We claim that there exists an $x - y$ path in $\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v$.

If $xy \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v)$ nothing to prove. If $xy \notin E(\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v)$ then x and y contain non-zero entries in different positions. That is, there exists $i \neq j$ such that x contains non-zero entry in i^{th} position and y contains non-zero entry in j^{th} position. Clearly, the vertex w with '1' in i^{th} and j^{th} position and '0' in other positions is such that $xw, wy \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. If $w \neq v$, then $x - w - y$ is a path connecting x and y in $\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v$. If $w = v$, then since $n \geq 3$ and $xy \notin E(\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v) \implies$ There exists a position k , ($1 \leq k \leq n$) such that x, y have '0' entry in position k . Let w_1 be the vertex with entry '1' in i^{th} and k^{th} position and '0' everywhere else and w_2 be the vertex with entry '1' in j^{th} and k^{th} position and '0' everywhere else. Clearly, $x - w_1 - w_2 - y$ is a path connecting x and y in $\overline{\Gamma(R)} - v \implies \overline{\Gamma(R)} - v$ is connected and v is not a cut vertex. Hence, $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ has no cut vertex.

Corollary 2.5 $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ has no cut edge.

Theorem 2.6 If $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$, ($n \geq 2$). then the vertex connectivity $\kappa(\Gamma(R))$ and edge connectivity $\lambda(\Gamma(R))$ of $\Gamma(R)$ is $\delta(\Gamma(R))$. In other words, $\kappa(\Gamma(R)) = \lambda(\Gamma(R)) = \delta(\Gamma(R)) = \min\{|F_i| - 1 : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

Proof: If $|F_1| = |F_2| = \dots = |F_n| = 2$, then by theorems 2.2 and 2.3, $\Gamma(R)$ contains cut vertex and cut edge and hence, $\kappa(\Gamma(R)) = \lambda(\Gamma(R)) = \delta(\Gamma(R)) = 1$. Let $|F_i| \geq 2$. Consider a vertex with a zero in the i^{th} position and non-zero entries in the remaining positions. The degree of such a vertex is $|F_i| - 1$, ($1 \leq i \leq n$). Therefore,

$\delta(\Gamma(R)) = \min\{|F_i| - 1 : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$. Let $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_{\delta(\Gamma(R))-2}\} \subset V(\Gamma(R))$ with $|S| = \delta(\Gamma(R)) - 2$. We prove that $\Gamma(R) - S$ is connected.

For $x, y \in \Gamma(R) - S$ if $xy \in E(\Gamma(R) - S)$ we have nothing to prove.

Suppose $xy \notin E(\Gamma(R) - S)$. Note that x and y has at least one '0' as its co-ordinates. Let $T = \{v \in V(G) : v \text{ contains non-zero entry in exactly one position and '0' in remaining positions}\}$. There are $|F_i| - 1$ vertices having one non-zero entry in i^{th} position, ($1 \leq i \leq n$) and '0' elsewhere and $|T| = \sum_{i=1}^n (|F_i| - 1)$. Therefore (even if $S \subset T$), there exists a vertex in $T \setminus S$ with a non zero entry in i^{th} position and '0' everywhere else for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

There exists two vertices z and w in T , such that,

(i) $z, w \notin S$

(ii) $xz, yw \in E(\Gamma(R) - S)$.

It is possible that $z = w$. Further, any two vertices in T with non-zero entries not in same position are adjacent. Thus, if $z = w$, then $x - z - y$ is a path in $\Gamma(R) - S$. If $z \neq w$, then $x - z - w - y$ is a path in $\Gamma(R) - S$ connecting x and y . $\implies \Gamma(R) - S$ is connected. \implies The minimum cardinality of a vertex cut in $\Gamma(R)$ is $\min\{|F_i| - 1 : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

$\implies \kappa(\Gamma(R)) \geq \min\{|F_i| - 1 | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

But, $\delta(\Gamma(R)) = \min\{|F_i| - 1 | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ and

$\kappa(\Gamma(R)) \leq \delta(\Gamma(R)) \implies \kappa(\Gamma(R)) = \delta(\Gamma(R)) = \min\{|F_i| - 1 | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

Further, $\lambda(\Gamma(R))$ - the edge connectivity of $\Gamma(R)$ satisfies,

$\kappa(\Gamma(R)) \leq \lambda(\Gamma(R)) \leq \delta(\Gamma(R))$ [6].

$\implies \kappa(\Gamma(R)) = \lambda(\Gamma(R)) = \delta(\Gamma(R)) = \min\{|F_i| - 1 : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$.

Corollary 2.7 (i) If $n = 2$, then $\overline{\Gamma(R)}$ is disconnected, therefore,

$\kappa(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \lambda(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = 0$.

(ii) If $R = F_1 \times F_2 \times \dots \times F_n$, $n \geq 3$ then $\kappa(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \lambda(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$.

Proof: (i) Trivial.

(ii) $\delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = (|V(\Gamma(R))| - 1) - \Delta(\Gamma(R)) = ((\prod_{i=1}^n |F_i| - \prod_{i=1}^n (|F_i| - 1) - 1) - \max\{(\frac{\prod_{i=1}^n |F_i|}{|F_j|}) - 1 | (1 \leq j \leq n)\})$.

The maximum degree vertices in $(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ contains '0' in exactly one co-ordinate position and non-zero entries in remaining co-ordinate positions. And the number of such maximum degree vertices is

$((\prod_{i=1}^n |F_i| - \prod_{i=1}^n (|F_i| - 1) - 1) - \min\{|F_i| - 1 | 1 \leq i \leq n\})$.

Therefore, if $S \subset V(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ with $|S| = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) - 1$ and $T \subset V(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ is set of

maximum degree vertices then, clearly, for $n \geq 3$, $|T| - |S| \geq 2$. Consider the set $S \subset V(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ with $|S| = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) - 1$. Let $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \in S$. Suppose $xy \notin E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Then the non-zero entries of x and y are not in the common co-ordinate positions. That is, if x has non-zero entries in the co-ordinate positions x_1, \dots, x_k ($1 \leq k \leq n$), then y contains '0' entries in the co-ordinate positions y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k . Since, $|T| - |S| \geq 2$, let $z \in T$, such that $z \notin S$. If $xz \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ then $yz \notin E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$, since x and y have non-zero entries that are not in the common co-ordinate positions, and since $|T| - |S| \geq 2$, there exists $w \in T$, such that $yw \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Since, T is a clique, $zw \in E(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Thus, $x - z - w - y$ is a path connecting x and y . Hence, $\overline{\Gamma(R)} \setminus \{S\}$ is connected if $S \subset V(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$ with $|S| = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) - 1$. Therefore, $\kappa(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$. Hence, $\kappa(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \lambda(\overline{\Gamma(R)}) = \delta(\overline{\Gamma(R)})$.

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