

# On the Metric Dimension of Corona Product of Graphs

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## Abstract

For an ordered set  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k\}$  of vertices and a vertex  $v$  in a connected graph  $G$ , the representation of  $v$  with respect to  $W$  is the ordered  $k$ -tuple  $r(v|W) = (d(v, w_1), d(v, w_2), \dots, d(v, w_k))$  where  $d(x, y)$  represents the distance between the vertices  $x$  and  $y$ . The set  $W$  is called a resolving set for  $G$  if every vertex of  $G$  has a distinct representation. A resolving set containing a minimum number of vertices is called a basis for  $G$ . The metric dimension of  $G$ , denoted by  $\dim(G)$ , is the number of vertices in a basis of  $G$ . A graph  $G$  corona  $H$ ,  $G \odot H$ , is defined as a graph which formed by taking  $n$  copies of graphs  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n$  of  $H$  and connecting  $i$ -th vertex of  $G$  to the vertices of  $H_i$ . In this paper, we determine the metric dimension of corona product graphs  $G \odot H$ , the lower bound of the metric dimension of  $K_1 + H$  and determine some exact values of the metric dimension of  $G \odot H$  for some particular graphs  $H$ .

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## 1 Introduction

In this paper we consider finite and simple graphs. The vertex and edge sets of a graph  $G$  are denoted by  $V(G)$  and  $E(G)$ , respectively. For a further reference

please see Chartrand and Lesniak [4].

The *distance*  $d_G(u, v)$  between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a connected graph  $G$  is the length of a shortest  $u - v$  path in  $G$ . The distance is only denoted by  $d(x, y)$  if we know the context of the graph  $G$ . For an ordered set  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k\} \subseteq V(G)$  of vertices, we refer to the ordered  $k$ -tuple  $r(v|W) = (d(v, w_1), d(v, w_2), \dots, d(v, w_k))$  as the (*metric*) *representation of  $v$  with respect to  $W$* . The set  $W$  is called a *resolving set* for  $G$  if  $r(u|W) = r(v|W)$  implies  $u = v$  for all  $u, v \in G$ . A resolving set with minimum cardinality is called a *minimum resolving set* or a *basis*. The *metric dimension* of a graph  $G$ ,  $\dim(G)$ , is the number of vertices in a basis for  $G$ . To determine whether  $W$  is a resolving set for  $G$ , we only need to investigate the representations of the vertices in  $V(G) \setminus W$ , since the representation of each  $w_i \in W$  has '0' in the  $i$ th-ordinate; and so it is always unique. If  $d(u, x) \neq d(v, x)$ , we shall say that vertex  $x$  *distinguishes* the vertices  $u$  and  $v$  and the vertices  $u$  and  $v$  *are distinguished* by  $x$ . Likewise, if  $r(u|S) \neq r(v|S)$ , we shall say that the set  $S$  *distinguishes* vertices  $u$  and  $v$ .

The first papers discussing the notion of a (minimum) resolving set were written by Slater [19] and Harary and Melter [8]. Garey and Johnson [7] have proved that the problem of computing the metric dimension for general graphs is *NP*-complete. The metric dimension of amalgamation of cycle and complete graphs are widely investigated in [11, 12]. Manuel *et al.* [16, 15] determined the metric dimension of graphs which are designed for multiprocessor interconnection networks. Some researchers defined and investigated the family of graphs related to their metric dimension. Hernando *et al.* [9] investigated the extremal problem of the family of connected graphs with metric dimension  $\beta$  and diameter, and Javaid *et al.* [13] for the family of regular graphs with constant metric dimension.

Chartrand *et al.* [5] has characterized all graphs having metric dimensions  $1, n - 1$ , or  $n - 2$ . They also determined the metric dimensions of some well-known families of graphs such as paths, cycles, complete graphs, and trees. Their results can be summarized as follows

**Theorem A** [5] *Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n \geq 2$ .*

- (i)  *$\dim(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G = P_n$ .*
- (ii)  *$\dim(G) = n - 1$  if and only if  $G = K_n$ .*
- (iii) *For  $n \geq 4$ ,  $\dim(G) = n - 2$  if and only if  $G = K_{r,s}$ , ( $r, s \geq 1$ ),  $G = K_r + \overline{K_s}$ , ( $r \geq 1, s \geq 2$ ), or  $G = K_r + (K_1 \cup K_s)$ , ( $r, s \geq 1$ ).*
- (iv) *For  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\dim(C_n) = 2$ .*

(v) If  $T$  is a tree other than a path, then  $\dim(T) = \sigma(T) - ex(T)$ , where  $\sigma(T)$  denotes the sum of the terminal degrees of the major vertices of  $T$ , and  $ex(T)$  denotes the number of the exterior major vertices of  $T$ .

Saenpholphat and Zhang in [17] have discussed the notion of *distance similar* in a graph. The *neighbourhood*  $N(v)$  of a vertex  $v$  in a graph  $G$  is all of vertices in a graph  $G$  which adjacent to  $v$ . The *closed neighbourhood*  $N[v]$  of a vertex  $v$  in a graph  $G$  is  $N(v) \cup v$ . Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of a connected graph  $G$  are said to be *distance similar* if  $d(u, x) = d(v, x)$  for all  $x \in V(G) - \{u, v\}$ . They observed the following properties.

**Proposition B** *Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of a connected graph  $G$  are distance similar if and only if (1)  $uv \notin E(G)$  and  $N(u) = N(v)$  or (2)  $uv \in E(G)$  and  $N[u] = N[v]$ .*

**Proposition C** *Distance similarity in a connected graph  $G$  is an equivalence relation on  $V(G)$ .*

**Proposition D** *If  $U$  is a distance similar equivalence class of a connected graph  $G$ , then  $U$  is either independent in  $G$  or in  $\overline{G}$ .*

**Proposition E** *If  $U$  is a distance similar equivalence class in a connected graph  $G$  with  $|U| = p \geq 2$ , then every resolving set of  $G$  contains at least  $p - 1$  vertices from  $U$ .*

Other researchers also considered the metric dimension of the graphs formed by operations of graph such as joint, Cartesian, and composition product of graphs. Caceres *et al.* in [2] stated the results of metric dimension of joint graphs. Caceres *et al.* in [3] investigated the characteristics of Cartesian product of graphs. Saputro *et al.* in [18] determined the metric dimension of Composition product of graphs. Iswadi *et al.* in [10] investigated the metric dimension of corona product  $G \odot K_1$  for some particular graph  $G$ . In this paper, we continue and determine a general result of the metric dimension of corona product of graphs for any graph  $G$  and  $H$ . Furthermore, we determine the exact value of the metric dimension of corona product of the graph  $G$  with  $n$ -ary tree  $T$ .

## 2 Corona Product of Graphs

Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  and  $H$  (not necessarily connected) be a graph with  $|H| \geq 2$ . A graph  $G$  corona  $H$ ,  $G \odot H$ , is defined as a graph which formed by taking  $n$  copies of graphs  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n$  of  $H$  and connecting  $i$ -th vertex of  $G$  to the vertices of  $H_i$ . Throughout this section, we refer to  $H_i$  as a  $i$ -th copy of  $H$  connected to  $i$ -th vertex of  $G$  in  $G \odot H$  for every  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

We extend the idea of distance similar. Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  are said to be *distance similar with respect to  $H$*  if  $d(u, x) = d(v, x)$  for all  $x \in V(G) - V(H)$ . We observed this following fact for the graph of  $G \odot H$ .

**Observation 1.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $H$  be a graph with order at least 2. Two vertices  $u, v$  in  $H_i$  is distance similar with respect to  $H_i$ .*

We also have a distance property of two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $H$  or in  $H_i$  subgraph  $G \odot H$ . A vertex  $u \in G$  is called a *dominant vertex* if  $d(u, v) = 1$  for other vertices  $v \in G$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $H$  be a graph with order at least 2. If  $H$  contains a dominant vertex  $v$  then  $d_H(x, y) = d_{G \odot H}(x, y)$ , for every  $x, y$  in  $H$  or in a subgraph  $H_i$  of  $G \odot H$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be a dominant vertex of  $H$  and  $x, y$  be in  $H$ . If  $xy \in E(H)$  then  $d_H(x, y) = 1 = d_{G \odot H}(x, y)$ . If  $xy \notin E(H)$  then  $d_H(x, y) = d_H(x, v) + d_H(v, y) = 2 = d_{G \odot H}(x, v) + d_{G \odot H}(v, y) = d_{G \odot H}(x, y)$ . Then,  $d_H(x, y) = d_{G \odot H}(x, y)$ , for every  $x, y$  in  $H$ . By using similar reason with two previous sentences, we also have a conclusion  $d_{G \odot H}(x, y) = d_H(x, y)$ , for every  $x, y$  in  $H_i$ .  $\square$

By using the similar reason with the proof of Lemma 1, we can prove this following lemma.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $H$  be a graph with order at least 2. Then  $d_{K_1+H}(x, y) = d_{G \odot H}(x, y)$ , for every  $x, y$  in a subgraph  $H$  of  $K_1 + H$  or in a subgraph  $H_i$  of  $G \odot H$ .*

By using Observation 1, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  and  $H$  be a graph with order at least 2.*

(i) If  $S$  is a resolving set of  $G \odot H$  then  $V(H_i) \cap S \neq \emptyset$  for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ .

(ii) If  $B$  is a basis of  $G \odot H$  then  $V(G) \cap B = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.* (i) Suppose there exists  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $V(H_i) \cap S = \emptyset$ . Let  $x, y \in V(H_i)$ . By using Observation 1,  $d_{G \odot H}(x, u) = d_{G \odot H}(y, u)$  for every  $u \in S$ , a contradiction.

(ii) Suppose that  $V(G) \cap B \neq \emptyset$ . We will show that  $S' = B - V(G)$  is a resolving set for  $G \odot H$ . From (i), it is clear that  $S' \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $x, y$  two different vertices in  $G \odot H$ . We have four cases:

*Case 1:*  $x, y \in V(H_i)$  for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . By using (i), there are some  $v \in V(H_i) \cap S'$  such that  $d(x, v) \neq d(y, v)$ .

*Case 2:*  $x \in V(H_i)$  and  $y \in V(H_j)$ , for every  $i \neq j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Let  $v \in V(H_i) \cap S'$ . We have  $d(x, v) \leq 2 < 3 \leq d(y, v)$ .

*Case 3:*  $x, y \in V(G)$ . Let  $x = v_i$ , for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $v \in V(H_i) \cap S'$ . We have  $d(x, v) = 1 < d(y, x) + d(x, v) = d(y, v)$ .

*Case 4:*  $x \in V(H_i)$  for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $y \in V(G)$ . Let  $y = v_j$  for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . There exist  $v \in V(H_j) \cap S'$  such that  $d(x, v) = d(x, v_i) + d(v_i, v_j) + d(v_j, v) > d(v_j, v) = d(y, v)$ .

Then  $S'$  is a resolving set for  $G \odot H$  where  $|S'| < |B|$ . We have a contradiction with  $B$  is a basis of  $G \odot H$ .  $\square$

The following theorem determine the metric dimension of the graph  $G$  corona  $H$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph,  $H$  be a graph with order at least 2. Then*

$$\dim(G \odot H) = \begin{cases} |G|\dim(H), & \text{if } H \text{ contains a dominant vertex;} \\ |G|\dim(K_1 + H), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $B$  be a basis of  $G \odot H$ . Let  $H_i$  be a  $i$ -th copy of  $H$  connected to  $i$ -th vertex of  $G$  in  $G \odot H$ .

*Case 1:*  $H$  contains a dominant vertex.

Suppose that  $\dim(G \odot H) < |G|\dim(H)$ . Let  $B_i = B \cap V(H_i)$ . Since  $B \cap V(G) = \emptyset$  (using Lemma 3 (ii)), there exist  $B_j$  such that  $|B_j| < \dim(H)$ . It means that every two vertices of  $H_j$  can be distinguished by only vertices in  $B_j$ . Therefore,  $B_j$  is a resolving set for  $H_j (\cong H)$ , a contradiction. Hence, we have  $\dim(G \odot H) \geq |G|\dim(H)$ . Now, we will prove that  $\dim(G \odot H) \leq |G|\dim(H)$ . Let  $W_i$  be a basis of  $H_i$ . Set  $S = \bigcup_{i=1}^n W_i$ . We will show that  $S$  is a resolving set of  $G \odot H$ . Since  $S \cap V(G) = \emptyset$ , by using the same technique in the proof of

Lemma 3 (ii), we can prove that the set  $S$  is a resolving set of  $G \odot H$ . Hence,  $\dim(G \odot H) \leq |S| = |\bigcup_{i=1}^n W| = |G|\dim(H)$ .

*Case 2:  $H$  does not contain a dominant vertex.*

This case is proved by a similar way to Case 1, by considering  $\dim(K_1 + H)$  instead of  $\dim(H)$  and applying Lemma 2 instead of Lemma 1. To prove  $\dim(G \odot H) \leq |G|\dim(K_1 + H)$ , we choose  $S' = \bigcup_{i=1}^n W'_i$ , where  $W'_i$  is a basis of  $K_1 + H_i$ .  $\square$

In Theorem 1, the formula of the metric dimension of corona product of graphs depends on the metric dimension of  $K_1 + H$ . Caceres et.al. [2] stated the lower bound of metric dimension of join graph  $G + H$  as follow.

**Theorem B** [2] *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be a connected graph. Then*

$$\dim(G + K) \geq \dim(G) + \dim(H).$$

By using this Caceres's result we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.** *For any connected graph  $H$ , we have*

$$\dim(K_1 + H) \geq \dim(H) + 1.$$

The lower bound in Corollary 1 is sharp because  $H \cong P_2$  fulfills the equality. In [1], Buczkowski et. al. determined the metric dimension of the wheel graph  $W_n = K_1 + C_n$ . They stated that  $\dim(W_3) = 3$ ,  $\dim(W_4) = \dim(W_5) = 2$ ,  $\dim(W_6) = 3$ , and if  $n \geq 7$ , then  $\dim(W_n) = \lfloor \frac{2n+2}{5} \rfloor$ . Caceres et.al. in [2] have determined the metric dimension of the fan graph  $F_n = K_1 + P_n$ ,  $\dim(K_1 + P_1) = \dim(P_2) = 1$ ,  $\dim(K_1 + P_i) = 2$  for  $i \in \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , and if  $n \geq 7$ , then  $\dim(F_n) = \lfloor \frac{2n+2}{5} \rfloor$ .

These results and the idea of the distance similar of a dominating set in a graph suggest the metric dimension of corona product of any graph  $G$  with a complete graph  $K_n$ , the graph  $C_n$ , or the graph  $P_n$ . Since  $K_n$  contains a dominant vertex, by using Theorem 1, we have this following corollary.

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $K_n$  be a complete graph. For  $n \geq 2$ ,*

$$\dim(G \odot K_n) = |G|(n - 1).$$

Since  $C_n$  and  $P_n$  do not contain a dominant vertex for  $n \geq 7$  then by using Theorem 1, we have this following corollary.

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $H$  is isomorphic to  $C_n$  or  $P_n$ . If  $n \geq 7$ , then*

$$\dim(G \odot H) = |G| \left\lfloor \frac{2m + 2}{5} \right\rfloor$$

For  $n = 3, 4, 5,$  and  $6,$   $\dim(G \odot C_n) = k|G|,$  with  $k = 3, 2, 2,$  and  $3,$  respectively. For  $n = 2, 3, 4, 5,$  and  $6,$   $\dim(G \odot P_n) = q|G|,$  with  $q = 1, 2, 2, 2,$  and  $2,$  respectively.

We have also known the metric dimension of  $K_1 + S_n,$  where  $S_n$  is a star with  $n$  pendants. Since the metric dimension of  $K_1 + S_n$  is isomorphic to a complete bipartite graph  $K_{2,n},$  by using Theorem A (iii),  $\dim(K_1 + S_n) = n.$  Hence, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.** *Let  $S_n$  be a star graph,  $n \geq 2.$  Then, we have*

$$\dim(G \odot S_n) = |G|n.$$

### 3 Corona Product of a Graph and an $n$ -ary Tree

In this section, we will determine the metric dimension of a joint graph  $K_1 + T,$  where  $T$  is a  $n$ -ary tree. Then by using Theorem 1, we obtain the metric dimension of the corona product of  $G \odot T.$

For  $T \cong K_2,$  the joint graph  $K_1 + T \cong C_3.$  All vertices in  $C_3$  are the dominant vertices and  $\dim(C_3) = 2.$  For  $T \cong S_n,$  from the previous section,  $\dim(K_1 + S_n) = n.$

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $T$  be a tree other than a star. Then,  $K_1 + T$  has exactly one dominant vertex and every resolving set  $S$  of  $K_1 + T$  is a subset of  $T.$*

*Proof.* Since  $S_n$  is the only tree with one dominant vertex then a joint graph  $K_1 + T,$  where  $T \not\cong K_2$  or  $S_n,$  only contain exactly one dominant vertex, i.e the vertex of  $K_1,$  say  $v.$  Let  $S$  be a resolving set of  $K_1 + T.$  Since  $v$  is the only vertex of  $K_1 + T$  at distance 1 to every vertex of  $T$  then the representation of  $v$  with respect to  $S$  is unique. Hence,  $v \notin S.$  So,  $S \subseteq T.$   $\square$

A *rooted tree* is a pair  $(T, r),$  where  $T$  is a tree and  $r \in V(T)$  is a distinguished vertex of  $T$  called the *root.* In this paper, we simplify the notation of a rooted tree by  $T.$  If  $xy \in E(T)$  is an edge and the vertex  $x$  lies on the unique path from  $y$  to the root, we say that  $x$  is the *father* of  $y$  and  $y$  is a *child* of  $x.$  A *complete  $n$ -ary tree*  $T$  is a rooted tree whose every vertex, except the leaves, has exactly  $n$  children.

The  $i$ -th level of an  $n$ -ary tree  $T,$  denoted by  $T^i,$  is the set of vertices in  $T$  at distance  $i$  from the root vertex. For  $u$  in  $T^i,$  we said  $u$  be on the level  $i$  in

an  $n$ -ary tree  $T$ . Then, the level 0,  $T^0$ , contains a single vertex  $r$ . The set of children of a vertex  $u$  in  $T^{i-1}$  is denoted by  $T_{\{u\}}^i$ , and so  $T^i = \bigcup_{u \in T^{i-1}} T_{\{u\}}^i$ . The set of vertices at distance at most  $i$  and at least  $k$  from the root  $r$  is denoted by  $T_k^i = \bigcup_{j=k}^i T^j$ .

If all leaves of a complete  $n$ -ary tree  $T$  are on the same level  $l$  then  $T$  is called a perfect complete  $n$ -ary tree with *depth*  $l$ , denoted by  $T(n, l)$ . The order of  $T(n, l)$  is  $n^0 + n^1 + \dots + n^l$ , and the number of vertices on level  $i$  is  $|T^i(n, l)| = n^i$ . From now on, we use the term  $n$ -ary tree for a perfect complete  $n$ -ary. For  $n = 1$ ,  $K_1 + T(1, l) \cong K_1 + P_{l+1} = F_{l+1}$  and  $\dim(K_1 + T(1, l)) = \left\lfloor \frac{2(l+1)+2}{5} \right\rfloor$ . For  $l = 1$ ,  $K_1 + T(n, 1) \cong K_1 + S_n = K_{2,n}$  and  $\dim(K_1 + T(n, 1)) = n$ . So, we will determine the metric dimension of  $\dim(K_1 + T(n, l))$  where  $T(n, l)$  is an  $n$ -ary tree with the *depth*  $l$  for  $n \geq 2$  and  $l \geq 2$ .

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $S$  be a resolving set of a graph  $K_1 + T(n, l)$  and  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l\}$ . If  $S \cap T^{i+1}(n, l) = \emptyset$  then at least  $n - 1$  vertices of  $T_{\{u\}}^i$  must be in  $S$  for every  $u$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that there is a vertex  $u$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l)$  such that  $|T_{\{u\}}^i(n, l) \cap S| < n - 1$ . Then there are two vertices  $x, y$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l)$  but not in  $S$  such that they have the same distance (1 or 2) to every vertex of  $S$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

Lemma 4 holds for  $i = l$  since all vertices  $u$  in  $T^l(n, l)$  has no children. If  $S \cap T^{i+1}(n, l) = \emptyset$  then by using Lemma 4 we have at most one vertex  $x$  in  $T_{\{u\}}^i(n, l)$  but not in  $S$  for every  $u$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l)$ .

**Lemma 5.** *If  $S$  be a resolving set of a graph  $K_1 + T(n, l)$  and  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l\}$  then at least  $n^i - 1$  vertices of  $T_{i-1}^{i+1}(n, l)$  must be in  $S$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $|T_{i-1}^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| < n^i - 1$  for some  $i$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |T^i(n, l) - S| &= |T^i(n, l) - (T^i(n, l) \cap S)| \\ &\geq n^i - (n^i - 2 - |T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| - |T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S|) \\ &= |T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| + |T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| + 2 \end{aligned}$$

There are two cases:

*Case 1:*  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$ . There are two subcases.

*Subcase 1.1:*  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$ .

In this case,  $|T^i(n, l) - S| \geq 2$ . Hence, we have at least two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $T^i(n, l)$  which all of their parents and children are not in  $S$ . Then,  $x$  and  $y$  have the same distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ , a contradiction.

*Subcase 1.2:*  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$ .

This means  $|T^i(n, l) - S| \geq |T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| + 2$ . Since, by using Lemma 4, we have at most one vertex  $x$  in  $T_{\{u\}}^i(n, l)$  but not in  $S$  for every  $u$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l)$  then  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S|$  vertices in  $T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S$  must have at most  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S|$  children in  $T^i(n, l) - S$ . Then, there are at least two pairs of parent-child  $ux$  and  $vy$  where  $u, v$  in  $T^{i-1}(n, l) - S$ ,  $x, y$  in  $T^i(n, l) - S$ , and  $x \in T_{\{u\}}^i(n, l)$ ,  $y \in T_{\{v\}}^i(n, l)$ . So,  $x$  and  $y$  have the same distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ , a contradiction.

*Case 2:*  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$ . There are two subcases.

*Subcase 2.1:*  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$ .

We have  $|T^i(n, l) - S| \geq |T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| + 2$ . Since a vertex  $w$  in  $T^{i+1} \cap S$  distinguishes two vertices  $x$  any  $y$  in  $T^i(n, l)$  where one of them is the parent of  $w$  and the other is not, then  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S|$  vertices of  $T^{i+1}(n, l)$  distinguish at most  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S|$  parents in  $T^i(n, l) - S$ . Hence, we have at least two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $T^i(n, l)$  which all of their parents and children are not in  $S$ . Then,  $x$  and  $y$  have the same distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ , a contradiction.

*Subcase 2.2:*  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$ .

In this subcase,  $|T^i(n, l) - S| \geq |T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| + |T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| + 2$ . By using similar reason to Subcases 1.2 and 2.1, we have  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S|$  vertices in  $T^{i-1}(n, l) - S$  must have at most  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S|$  children in  $T^i(n, l) - S$  and  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S|$  vertices of  $T^{i+1}(n, l)$  distinguish at most  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S|$  parents in  $T^i(n, l) - S$ . Then, we have at least two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $T^i(n, l)$  which all of their parents and children are not in  $S$ . Then,  $x$  and  $y$  have the same distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

Lemma 5 is also hold for  $i = l$  since all vertices  $u$  in  $T^l(n, l)$  has no children. Lemma 4 and 5 give us a procedure to construct a resolving set  $S$  of  $T(n, l)$  which have a minimal number of vertices. The procedure is done by applying Lemma 4 and 5 from  $i = l$  up to  $i = 1$  consecutively. The minimal condition of a resolving set  $S$  in  $T(n, l)$  can be reached if we have as many possible  $T^i(n, l)$ 's such that  $T^i(n, l) \cap S = \emptyset$  and the other levels fulfill Lemma 4 and 5.

Let  $S$  be a resolving set of  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ . By using Proposition 1, we have  $S \subseteq T(n, l)$ . For  $i = l$ , since all vertices of  $T^l(n, l)$  have no children then, by using Lemma 4 and 5, at least  $n^l - 1$  vertices of  $T_{l-1}^l(n, l)$  must be in  $S$ . These vertices can be distributed in levels  $T^l(n, l)$  and  $T^{l-1}(n, l)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} |T^l(n, l) \cap S| &= \underbrace{(n-1) + \cdots + (n-1)}_{n^{l-1} \text{ times}} \\ &= n^l - n^{l-1} \end{aligned}$$

and  $|T^{l-1}(n, l) \cap S| = n^{l-1} - 1$  vertices. If we use this distribution, there exists a vertex in  $T^l(n, l)$  at distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ . We denote this vertex

by  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$ .

To reach a minimal condition for  $S$ , we can assume that  $T^{l-2}(n, l) \cap S = \emptyset$ . By using this assumption, we can reapply Lemma 4 and 5 for  $i = l - 3$ . Thus, we have at least  $n^{l-3} - 1$  vertices of  $T_{l-4}^{l-3}(n, l)$  must be in  $S$ . Since  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  is in  $T^l(n, l)$  then we must have at least  $n^{l-3}$  vertices of  $T_{l-4}^{l-2}(n, l)$  must be in  $S$ . We then repeat this process up to level 0.

By using this procedure, we can construct a minimal resolving set of a  $T(n, l)$ . This resolving set will contain  $(n^l - 1) + n^{l-3} + \dots + n^i = \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$  vertices, where  $l = 3t + i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ . We will prove that this is indeed the metric dimension of  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ , where  $T(n, l)$  is  $n$ -ary tree with a depth  $l$ , as stated in the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.** For  $n, l \geq 2$ ,  $l = 3t + i$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , and  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , let  $T(n, l)$  be a  $n$ -ary with a depth  $l$ . Then,

$$\dim(K_1 + T(n, l)) = \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1.$$

*Proof.* We will show that  $\dim(K_1 + T(n, l)) \geq \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$ . Let  $S$  be a resolving set of  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ . By using Proposition 1, we have  $S \subseteq T(n, l)$ . Without losing the generalization, we put  $x_{2,2,\dots,2}$  in  $T^l(n, l)$ . We will show that  $|S| \geq (n^l - 1) + n^{l-3} + \dots + n^i = \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$ . Suppose that  $|S| < \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$ . By using Lemma 5, it suffices to show that  $|T_{i-1}^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| = n^i - 1$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l-1\}$  is impossible. If  $|T_{i-1}^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| = n^i - 1$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l-1\}$  then  $|T^i - S| = |T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| + |T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| + 1$ . We have these four possibilities:

- (i.)  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$  and  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$ .
- (ii.)  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$  and  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$ .
- (iii.)  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$  and  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| = 0$ .
- (iv.)  $|T^{i+1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$  and  $|T^{i-1}(n, l) \cap S| \neq 0$ .

By using similar reason to the proof of Lemma 5, for all the above possibilities, we have another vertex  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  in  $T^i(n, l)$  where  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, l-1\}$ , a contradiction. Hence, we have  $\dim(K_1 + T(n, l)) \geq \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$ .

Now, we prove the upper bound. For  $l = 3t + i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , and  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, t\}$ , set  $W_{l-3j}$  and  $W_{l-1-3j}$  as follow.  $W_{l-3j} = T^{l-3j}(n, l)$  except one vertex  $x$  in  $T_{\{u\}}^{l-3j}(n, l)$  for every  $u$  in  $T_{\{u\}}^{l-3j-1}(n, l)$  where  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, t\}$ ,

$W_{l-1} = T^{l-1}(n, l) - \{u\}$ , and  $W_{l-1-3j} = T^{l-1-3j}$  where  $j \in \{1, \dots, t\}$ . Then, we set  $W = \bigcup_{j=0}^t (W_{l-3j} \cup W_{l-1-3j})$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} |W| &= \sum_{j=0}^t |W_{l-3j}| + \sum_{j=0}^t |W_{l-1-3j}| \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^t (n^{l-3j} - n^{l-1-3j}) + (n^{l-1} - 1) + \sum_{j=1}^t (n^{l-1-3j}) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

We will prove that  $W$  is a resolving set of  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ . The vertex  $K_1$  has distance 1 to every vertex of  $W$ , which is a unique representation with respect to  $W$ . Since every vertex in  $T^{l-3j}(n, l) - W_{l-3j}$  have distance 1 to their parent in  $W_{l-1-3j}$  and 2 to other vertices of  $W$ , except for one vertex in  $T^l(n, l) - W_l$ , having a parent in  $T^{l-1}(n, l)$ . Thus,  $x$  have a unique representation with respect to  $W$  for every  $x$  in  $T^{l-3j}(n, l) - W_{l-3j}$ . For a vertex in  $T^l(n, l)$ , this vertex has distance 2 to every vertex of  $S$ . This is also a unique representation with respect to  $W$ . For a vertex in  $T^{l-1}(n, l)$ , this vertex have distance 1 to each of their children in  $W_l$ . For every vertex  $z$  in  $T^{l-3j-2}(n, l)$  has distance 1 uniquely to every their children in  $W_{l-3j-2}(n, l)$ . Then, all of vertices in  $K_1 + T(n, l)$  have distinct representation with respect to  $W$ . Hence,  $W$  is a resolving set of  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ . Therefore,  $\dim(K_1 + T(n, l)) \leq \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1$ .  $\square$

Let  $B$  be a basis of graph  $K_1 + T(n, l)$ , where  $T(n, l)$  is a  $n$ -ary tree with a depth  $l$ , for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $l = 3t + i$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , and  $i = 0, 1, 2$ . From Lemma 4 and Theorem 2, we assume that a vertex  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  in  $T^l(n, l)$ . There are  $n^l$  possibilities for the position of  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  in  $T^l(n, l)$ . But these bases are unique up to isomorphism. The position of  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  can also be moved to level  $T^{l-3j}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, t$ . For each of these levels, the basis form a unique basis up to isomorphism. Since there are  $t + 1$  ways to put  $x_{(2,2,\dots,2)}$  in  $T(n, l)$  then there are  $t + 1$  different bases of  $K_1 + T$  (up to isomorphism).

Since a tree which is not isomorphic to  $K_2$  and  $S_n$  has no dominant vertices, by using Theorem 1 and 2, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 5.** *For  $n, l \geq 2$ ,  $l = 3t + i$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , and  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , let  $G$  be a connected graph and  $T(n, l)$  be a  $n$ -ary tree with a depth  $l$ . Then,*

$$\dim(G \odot T(n, l)) = |G| \left( \sum_{j=0}^t n^{l-3j} - 1 \right).$$

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