



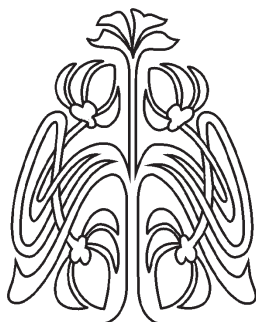
## МАТЕМАТИКА

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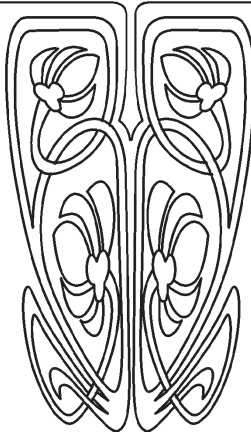
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### Forcing total outer connected monophonic number of a graph

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**Abstract.** For a connected graph  $G = (V, E)$  of order at least two, a subset  $T$  of a minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  of  $G$  is a *forcing total outer connected monophonic subset* for  $S$  if  $S$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing  $T$ . A forcing total outer connected monophonic subset for  $S$  of minimum cardinality is a *minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset* of  $S$ . The *forcing total outer connected monophonic number*  $f_{tom}(S)$  in  $G$  is the cardinality of a minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S$ . The *forcing total outer connected monophonic number* of  $G$  is  $f_{tom}(G) = \min\{f_{tom}(S)\}$ , where the minimum is taken over all minimum total outer connected monophonic sets  $S$  in  $G$ . We determine bounds for it and find the forcing total outer connected monophonic number of a certain class of graphs. It is shown that for every pair  $a, b$  of positive integers with  $0 \leq a < b$  and  $b \geq a + 4$ , there exists a connected graph  $G$  such that  $f_{tom}(G) = a$  and  $cm_{to}(G) = b$ , where  $cm_{to}(G)$  is the total outer connected monophonic number of a graph.

**Keywords:** total outer connected monophonic set, total outer connected monophonic number, forcing total outer connected monophonic subset, forcing total outer connected monophonic number



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Научная статья  
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## Форсирование общего внешне связного монофонического числа графа

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**Аннотация.** Для связного графа  $G = (V, E)$  с числом вершин не менее 2 подмножество  $T$  минимального общего внешне связного монофонического множества  $S$  графа  $G$  является *сильным общим внешне связным монофоническим подмножеством* для  $S$ , если  $S$  есть единственное минимальное общее внешне связное монофоническое множество, содержащее  $T$ . Сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое подмножество для  $S$  с минимальным числом элементов есть *минимальное сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое подмножество*  $S$ . *Сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое число*  $f_{tom}(S)$  в  $G$  есть число элементов минимального сильного общего внешне связного монофонического подмножества  $S$ . *Сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое число* графа  $G$  есть  $f_{tom}(G) = \min\{f_{tom}(S)\}$ , где минимум принимается над всеми минимальными общими внешне связными монофоническими множествами  $S$  в  $G$ . Мы определяем его границы и находим сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое число некоторых классов графов. Показывается, что для каждой пары  $a, b$  положительных целых с  $0 \leq a < b$  и  $b \geq a + 4$  существует связный граф  $G$  такой, что  $f_{tom}(G) = a$  и  $cm_{to}(G) = b$ , где  $cm_{to}(G)$  является общим внешне связным монофоническим числом графа.

**Ключевые слова:** общее внешне связное монофоническое множество, общее внешне связное монофоническое число, сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое подмножество, сильное общее внешне связное монофоническое число

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## Introduction

By a graph  $G = (V, E)$  we mean a finite simple undirected connected graph. The order and size of  $G$  are denoted by  $p$  and  $q$ , respectively. For basic graph theoretic terminology we refer to Harary [1, 2]. The *distance*  $d(x, y)$  between two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in a connected graph  $G$  is the length of a shortest  $x - y$  path in  $G$ . An  $x - y$  path of length  $d(x, y)$  is called an  $x - y$  *geodesic*. A vertex  $v$  of a connected graph  $G$  is called an *endvertex* of  $G$  if its degree is 1. A vertex  $v$  of a connected graph  $G$  is called a *support vertex* of  $G$  if it is adjacent to an endvertex of  $G$ . The *neighborhood* of a vertex  $v$  is the set  $N(v)$  consisting of all vertices  $u$  which are adjacent with  $v$ . A vertex  $v$  is an *extreme vertex* if the subgraph induced by its neighbors is complete. A *chord* of a path  $P$  is an edge joining two non-adjacent vertices of  $P$ . A path  $P$  is called a *monophonic path* if it is a chordless path. A set  $S$  of vertices of  $G$  is a *monophonic set* of  $G$  if each vertex  $v$  of  $G$  lies on a  $x - y$  monophonic path for some  $x$  and  $y$  in  $S$ . The minimum cardinality of a monophonic set of  $G$  is the *monophonic number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $m(G)$ . The monophonic number of a graph, an algorithmic aspect of monophonic concepts was introduced and studied in [3–7]. A *total monophonic set* of a graph  $G$  is a monophonic set  $S$  such that the subgraph  $G[S]$  induced by  $S$  has no isolated vertices. The minimum cardinality of a total monophonic set of  $G$  is the *total monophonic number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $m_t(G)$ . The total monophonic number of a graph and its related concepts were studied in [8–10]. A set  $S$  of vertices in a graph  $G$  is said to be an *outer connected monophonic set* if  $S$  is a monophonic set of  $G$  and either  $S = V$  or the subgraph induced by  $V - S$  is connected. The minimum cardinality of an outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the *outer connected monophonic number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $m_{oc}(G)$ . The outer connected monophonic number of a graph was introduced in [11]. Very recently, outer connected monophonic concepts have been widely investigated in graph theory, such as a connected outer connected monophonic number [12], extreme outer connected monophonic graphs [13], and so on. A *total outer connected monophonic set*  $S$  of  $G$  is an outer connected monophonic set such that the subgraph induced by  $S$  has no isolated vertices. The minimum cardinality of a total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the *total outer connected monophonic number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $cm_{to}(G)$ .

The authors of this article introduced and studied the general externally total outer connected monophonic number of a graph and proved the following theorems<sup>1</sup>, which will be used further.

**Theorem 1.** *Each extreme vertex and each support vertex of a connected graph  $G$  belong to every total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *For the complete graph  $K_p (p \geq 2)$ ,  $cm_{to}(K_p) = p$ .*

**Theorem 3.** *For any non-trivial tree  $T$ , the set of all endvertices and support vertices of  $T$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ .*

<sup>1</sup>Ganesamoorthy K., Lakshmi Priya S. The total outer connected monophonic number of a graph. *Transactions of A. Razmadze Mathematical Institute*, accepted.



**Theorem 4.** For any connected graph  $G$ ,  $cm_{to}(G) = 2$  if and only if  $G = K_2$ .

Throughout this paper,  $G$  denotes a connected graph with at least two vertices.

### 1. Main Results

**Definition 1.** Let  $S$  be a minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . A subset  $T$  of  $S$  is a *forcing total outer connected monophonic subset* for  $S$  if  $S$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing  $T$ . A forcing total outer connected monophonic subset for  $S$  of minimum cardinality is a *minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset* of  $S$ . The *forcing total outer connected monophonic number*  $f_{tom}(S)$  in  $G$  is the cardinality of a minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S$ . The *forcing total outer connected monophonic number* of  $G$  is  $f_{tom}(G) = \min\{f_{tom}(S)\}$ , where the minimum is taken over all minimum total outer connected monophonic sets  $S$  in  $G$ .

**Example 1.** For the graph  $G$  in Fig. 1, it is clear that  $S_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_4, v_5\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{v_1, v_4, v_5, v_8\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{v_1, v_2, v_5, v_6\}$  and  $S_4 = \{v_1, v_5, v_6, v_8\}$  are the minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$ . It is clear that no minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its 1-element subsets. It is easy to see that  $\{v_2, v_4\}$  is a forcing total outer connected monophonic subset contained in  $S_1$  and  $f_{tom}(S_1) = 2$ . Hence, we have  $f_{tom}(G) = 2$ . By Theorem 3, for any non-trivial tree  $T$ , the set of all endvertices and support vertices of  $T$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $T$  and so  $f_{tom}(T) = 0$ .

**Theorem 5.** For any connected graph  $G$  of order  $p$ ,  $0 \leq f_{tom}(G) \leq cm_{to}(G) \leq p$ .

**Proof.** By the definition of the forcing total outer connected monophonic number of a graph, it is clear that  $f_{tom}(G) \geq 0$ . Let  $S$  be a minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Clearly,  $f_{tom}(S) \leq |S| = cm_{to}(G)$  and  $f_{tom}(G) = \min\{f_{tom}(S)\}$ , where the minimum is taken over all minimum total outer connected monophonic sets  $S$  in  $G$ . Hence  $0 \leq f_{tom}(G) \leq cm_{to}(G) \leq p$ .  $\square$

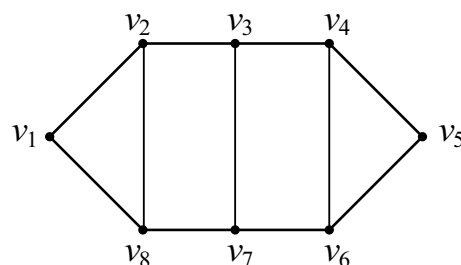


Fig. 1. Graph  $G$  with  $f_{tom}(G) = 2$

**Remark 1.** The bounds in Theorem 5 are sharp. By Theorem 3, for any non-trivial tree  $T$ , the set of all endvertices and support vertices of  $T$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $T$  and so  $f_{tom}(T) = 0$ . By Theorem 2, for the complete graph  $K_p (p \geq 2)$ ,  $cm_{to}(K_p) = p$ . Also all the inequalities in Theorem 5 can be strict. For the graph  $G$  given in Fig. 1 of order 8, it is clear that no 2-element subset or 3-element subset of  $V(G)$  is a total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . The minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$  are  $S_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_4, v_5\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{v_1, v_4, v_5, v_8\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{v_1, v_2, v_5, v_6\}$  and  $S_4 = \{v_1, v_5, v_6, v_8\}$  so that  $cm_{to}(G) = 4$ . It is clear that  $f_{tom}(S_i) = 2 (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  and so  $f_{tom}(G) = 2$ . Thus  $0 < f_{tom}(G) < cm_{to}(G) < p$ .

The following theorem characterizes graphs  $G$  for which the lower bound in Theorem 5 is attained and also characterizes graphs  $G$  for which  $f_{tom}(G) = 1$  and  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G)$ .



**Theorem 6.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then*

(i)  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$  if and only if  $G$  has the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set;

(ii)  $f_{tom}(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G$  has at least two minimum total outer connected monophonic sets, one of which is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing one of its elements;

(iii)  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G)$  if and only if no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets.

**Proof.** (i) Let  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ . Then, by the definition,  $f_{tom}(S) = 0$  for some minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  of  $G$  so that the empty set  $\varphi$  is the minimum forcing subset for  $S$ . Since the empty set  $\varphi$  is a subset of every set, it follows that  $S$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . The converse is clear.

(ii) Let  $f_{tom}(G) = 1$ . Then by (i),  $G$  has at least two minimum total outer connected monophonic sets. Since  $f_{tom}(G) = 1$ , there is a 1-element subset  $T$  of a minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  of  $G$  such that  $T$  is not a subset of any other minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Thus  $S$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing one of its elements. The converse is clear.

(iii) Let  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G)$ . Then  $f_{tom}(S) = cm_{to}(G)$  for every minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  in  $G$ . Since any total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  needs at least two vertices,  $cm_{to}(G) \geq 2$  and hence  $f_{tom}(G) \geq 2$ . Then by (i),  $G$  has at least two minimum total outer connected monophonic sets, and so the empty set  $\varphi$  is not a forcing subset for any minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Since  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G)$ , no proper subset of  $S$  is a forcing subset of  $S$ . Thus no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets.

Conversely, the data implies that  $G$  contains more than one minimum total outer connected monophonic set, and no subset of any minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  other than  $S$ , is a forcing subset for  $S$ . Hence it follows that  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.** A vertex  $v$  of  $G$  is said to be a *total outer connected monophonic vertex* if  $v$  belongs to every minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ .

**Remark 2.** If  $G$  has the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$ , then every vertex in  $S$  is a total outer connected monophonic vertex of  $G$ . Also, if  $x$  is an extreme vertex or a support vertex of  $G$ , then  $x$  is a total outer connected monophonic vertex of  $G$ . For the graph  $G$  given in Fig. 1,  $v_1$  and  $v_5$  are the total outer connected monophonic vertices of  $G$ .

The next theorem and corollary are an immediate consequence of the definitions of total outer connected monophonic vertex and a forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $G$ .

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and let  $\Psi_{tom}$  be the set of relative complements of the minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subsets in their respective minimum total outer connected monophonic sets in  $G$ . Then  $\bigcap_{F \in \Psi_{tom}} F$  is the set of all total outer connected monophonic vertices of  $G$ .*



**Corollary 1.** Let  $S$  be a minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Then no total outer connected monophonic vertex of  $G$  belongs to any minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S$ .

**Theorem 8.** Let  $M$  be the set of all total outer connected monophonic vertices of  $G$ . Then  $f_{tom}(G) \leq cm_{to}(G) - |M|$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be any minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Then  $cm_{to}(G) = |S|$ ,  $M \subseteq S$ , and  $S$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing  $S - M$ . Hence  $f_{tom}(G) \leq |S - M| = |S| - |M| = cm_{to}(G) - |M|$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.** If  $G$  is a connected graph with  $l$  extreme vertices and  $k$  support vertices, then  $f_{tom}(G) \leq cm_{to}(G) - (l + k)$ .

**Remark 3.** The bound in Theorem 8 is sharp. For the graph  $G$  given in Fig. 1, the minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$  are  $S_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_4, v_5\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{v_1, v_4, v_5, v_8\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{v_1, v_2, v_5, v_6\}$  and  $S_4 = \{v_1, v_5, v_6, v_8\}$  so that  $cm_{to}(G) = 4$ . It is clear that  $f_{tom}(S_i) = 2 (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  and so  $f_{tom}(G) = 2$ . Also,  $M = \{v_1, v_5\}$  is the set of all total outer connected monophonic vertices of  $G$  and so  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G) - |M|$ . The inequality in Theorem 8 can be strict. For the graph  $G$  given in Fig. 2, the minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$  are  $M_1 = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_6\}$ ,  $M_2 = \{v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$ ,  $M_3 = \{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_6\}$  and so  $cm_{to}(G) = 4$ . It is clear that  $f_{tom}(M_i) = 1 (i = 1, 2)$ , and so  $f_{tom}(G) = 1$ . Also, the vertices  $v_3$  and  $v_6$  are the total outer connected monophonic vertices of  $G$ , we have  $f_{tom}(G) < cm_{to}(G) - |M|$ .

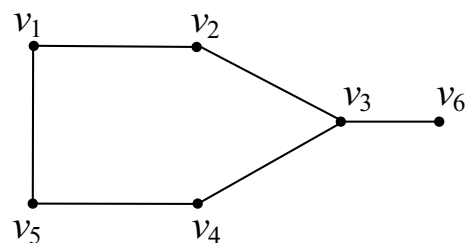


Fig. 2. A graph  $G$  with  $f_{tom}(G) < cm_{to}(G) - |M|$

**Theorem 9.** If  $G$  is a connected graph with  $cm_{to}(G) = 2$ , then  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ .

**Proof.** If  $cm_{to}(G) = 2$  then by Theorem 4, we have  $G = K_2$ . Hence  $V(G)$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . Also, by Theorem 6(i),  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Remark 4.** The converse of Theorem 9 need not be true. For the path  $P_4$  of order 4, the vertex set  $V(P_4)$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  and so  $cm_{to}(P_4) = 4$ . By Theorem 6 (i),  $f_{tom}(P_4) = 0$ .

**Theorem 10.** For the complete bipartite graph  $G = K_{m,n} (2 \leq m \leq n)$ ,

$$f_{tom}(G) = \begin{cases} m + n - 1 & \text{if } 2 = m \leq n, \\ 4 & \text{if } 3 \leq m \leq n. \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Let  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  and  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  be the partite sets of  $G$ , where  $m \leq n$ . We prove this theorem by considering two cases.

*Case 1.* If  $m = 2$ , then it is clear that any minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$  is of the form  $V(G) - \{w_i\} (1 \leq i \leq n)$  or  $V(G) - \{u_j\} (1 \leq j \leq m)$ . It is easy to verify that, no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the unique



minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets. Then by Theorem 6 (iii), we have  $f_{tom}(G) = m + n - 1$ .

*Case 2.* If  $3 \leq m \leq n$ , then any minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is obtained by choosing any two elements from  $U$  as well as  $W$ , and  $G$  has at least two minimum total outer connected monophonic sets. Hence  $cm_{to}(G) = 4$ . Clearly, no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets. Then by Theorem 6 (iii), we have  $f_{tom}(G) = cm_{to}(G) = 4$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 11.** For any cycle  $C_n (n \geq 3)$ ,  $f_{tom}(C_n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 3, \\ 3 & \text{if } n = 4, \\ 2 & \text{if } n \geq 5. \end{cases}$

**Proof.** Let  $C_n : v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, v_1$  be a cycle of order  $n$ . We prove this theorem by considering two cases.

*Case 1:*  $n = 3$ . Since  $C_3$  is the complete graph of order 3,  $V(C_3)$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $C_3$ . By Theorem 6 (i),  $f_{tom}(C_3) = 0$ .

*Case 2:*  $n \geq 4$ . It is clear that no 2-element subset of  $V(C_n)$  is a total outer connected monophonic set of  $C_n$ . It is easy to verify that any minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $C_n$  consists of three consecutive vertices of  $C_n$  so that  $cm_{to}(C_n) = 3$ . For  $n = 4$ , it is clear that no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $C_4$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets. Thus by Theorem 6 (iii), we have  $f_{tom}(C_4) = 3$ . For  $n \geq 5$ , it is clear that the set of two non-adjacent vertices of any minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  of  $C_n$  is a minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S$  and so  $f_{tom}(S) = 2$ . Hence  $f_{tom}(C_n) = 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 12.** For the wheel  $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1} (n \geq 5)$ ,  $f_{tom}(W_n) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } n = 5, \\ 2 & \text{if } n \geq 6. \end{cases}$

**Proof.** It is clear that no 2-element subset of  $V(W_n)$  is a total outer connected monophonic set of  $W_n$ . It is easy to observe that any minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $W_n$  consists of three consecutive vertices of  $C_{n-1}$  so that  $cm_{to}(W_n) = 3$ . For  $n = 5$ , it is clear that no minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $W_5$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing any of its proper subsets. Thus by Theorem 6 (iii), we have  $f_{tom}(W_5) = 3$ . For  $n \geq 6$ , it is clear that the set of two non-adjacent vertices of any minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S$  of  $W_n$  is a minimum forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S$  and so  $f_{tom}(S) = 2$ . Hence  $f_{tom}(W_n) = 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 13.** For any complete graph  $G = K_p (p \geq 2)$  or any non-trivial tree  $G = T$ ,  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G = K_p$ . By Theorem 2, the set of all vertices of  $G$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  and so by Theorem 6 (i),  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ . If  $G$  is a non-trivial tree, then by Theorem 3, the set of all endvertices and support vertices of  $G$  is the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  and by Theorem 6 (i),  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 14.** For every pair  $a, b$  of integers such that  $0 \leq a < b$  and  $b \geq a + 4$ , there is a connected graph  $G$  with  $f_{tom}(G) = a$  and  $cm_{to}(G) = b$ .



**Proof.** If  $a = 0$ , let  $G = K_b$ . Then by Theorem 13,  $f_{tom}(G) = 0$ , and by Theorem 2,  $cm_{to}(G) = b$ . Now, assume that  $0 < a < b$ . The required graph  $G$  is obtained from the star  $K_{1,4}$  having the vertex set  $\{z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5\}$  with  $z_3$  as the cut-vertex by adding  $a + b - 2$  new vertices  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_a, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_a, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{b-a-3}, x$  and joining each  $w_i (1 \leq i \leq a)$  to the vertices  $z_2, z_1$  and  $z_4$ ; and joining each  $v_i (1 \leq i \leq a)$  to the vertices  $z_2, z_4$  and  $z_5$ ; and joining each  $u_i (1 \leq i \leq b - a - 3)$  to the vertex  $z_5$ ; and also joining the vertex  $x$  to the vertex  $z_1$ , the vertex  $z_1$  to the vertex  $z_5$ , and the vertex  $z_2$  to the vertex  $z_4$ . The graph  $G$  is shown in Fig. 3. Let  $S = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{b-a-3}, x, z_1, z_5\}$  be the set of all endvertices and support vertices of  $G$ . By Theorem 1, every total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  contains  $S$ . It is clear that  $S$  is not a total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ . We observe that every minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  contains exactly one vertex from the set  $\{v_i, w_i\}$  for every  $(1 \leq i \leq a)$ . Thus  $cm_{to}(G) \geq b$ . Since  $S_1 = S \cup \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_a\}$  is a total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$ , it follows that  $cm_{to}(G) = b$ .

Next, we show that  $f_{tom}(G) = a$ . Since every minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  contains  $S$ , it follows from Theorem 8 that  $f_{tom}(G) \leq cm_{to}(G) - |S| = b - (b - a) = a$ . It is clear that every minimum total outer connected monophonic set  $S'$  of  $G$  is of the form  $S \cup \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_a\}$ , where  $x_i \in \{v_i, w_i\}$  for every  $i (1 \leq i \leq a)$ . Let  $T$  be any proper subset of  $S'$  with  $|T| < a$ . Then there is a vertex  $x \in S' - S$  such that  $x \notin T$ . If  $x = v_i (1 \leq i \leq a)$ , then  $S'' = (S' - \{v_i\}) \cup \{w_i\}$  is a minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  containing  $T$ . Similarly, if  $x = w_j (1 \leq j \leq a)$ , then  $S''' = (S' - \{w_j\}) \cup \{v_j\}$  is a minimum total outer connected monophonic set of  $G$  containing  $T$ . Thus  $S'$  is not the unique minimum total outer connected monophonic set containing  $T$  and so  $T$  is not a forcing total outer connected monophonic subset of  $S'$ . This is true for all minimum total outer connected monophonic sets of  $G$  and so  $f_{tom}(G) = a$ .  $\square$

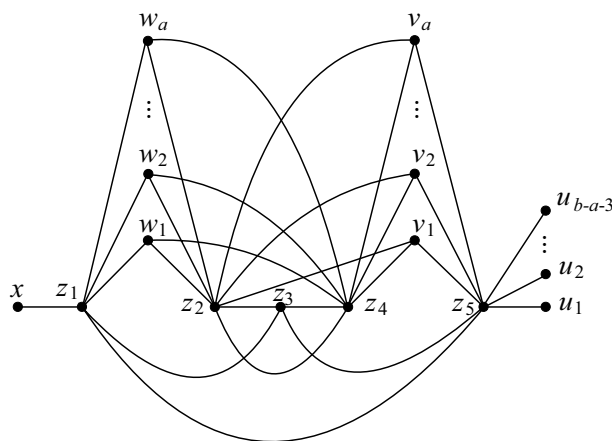


Fig. 3. A graph  $G$  with  $f_{tom}(G) = a > 0$  and  $cm_{to}(G) = b > a$

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