

A remark on the connectivity of $\Gamma(M)$

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ABSTRACT

Let R be a commutative ring and M be an R -module. The zero-divisor graph of M is defined as the graph $\Gamma(M)$ with the vertex set $Z({}_R M) = \{x \in M \mid (x :_R M)(y :_R M)M = 0, 0 \neq y \in M\}$ and two distinct vertices x, y of M are adjacent if and only if $(x :_R M)(y :_R M)M = 0$. In this paper, the connectivity of $\Gamma(M)$ is investigated.

KEYWORDS: zero-divisor graph, minimum degree, connectivity, vertex-cut, multiplication module.

1 INTRODUCTION

Let R be a commutative ring with identity and $Z(R)$ be its set of zero-divisors. The zero-divisor graph of the ring R , denoted by $\Gamma(R)$, is the simple graph associated to R such that its vertex set consists of all its nonzero zero divisors and that two distinct vertices x, y are joined by an edge if and only if $xy = 0$. This concept is due to Beck [5], who let all the elements of R be vertices of $\Gamma(R)$ and was mainly interested in colourings. For the information about the zero-divisor graphs of commutative rings, see [2-3], [10-11] and [13]. Recently, assigning a graph to a module has received a good deal of attention from many authors, see for instance [6-7].

Let M be an R -module. Recall that an element x of M is called a zero-divisor, if $x = 0$ or $(x :_R M)(y :_R M)M = 0$ for some nonzero y of M with $0 \neq (y :_R M) \subset R$. The set of zero-divisors of M is denoted by $Z({}_R M)$. We associate (simple) graph $\Gamma(M)$ to M with vertices $Z({}_R M) \setminus \{0\}$, and two distinct vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if $(x :_R M)(y :_R M)M = 0$.

A graph is said to be connected if for each pair of distinct vertices x and y , there is a finite sequence of distinct vertices $x = a_1, \dots, a_n = y$ such that each pair $\{a_i, a_{i+1}\}$ is an edge. Such a sequence is said to be a path, and the distance, $d(x, y)$, between vertices x and y is the length of the shortest path connecting them ($d(x, y) = 1$ if there is no such path). The diameter of a connected graph G is $\text{diam}(G) = \sup\{d(x, y) ; x \text{ and } y \text{ are distinct vertices of } G\}$.

A connected graph with more than one vertex has diameter 1 if and only if it is complete, that is, there exists an edge between each pair of distinct vertices. We denote the complete graph with n vertices by K_n . Also, the minimum degree of G , denoted by $\delta(G)$, is the minimum degree of its vertices. The set of vertices of G is denoted by $V(G)$.

In [9] it was proved that $\Gamma(M)$ is connected. The concept of the connectivity of a zero-divisor graph can be found in [1]. The connectivity of a graph G , denoted by $\kappa(G)$, is the smallest number of vertices in G whose deletion leaves either a disconnected graph or K_1 . A vertex-cut is a subset $U \subseteq V(G)$ such that

$G-U$ is disconnected. Therefore, $\kappa(G)$ is the size of smallest set U such that U is a vertex-cut of G or $G-U$ has only one vertex. For any graph G , $\kappa(G) \leq \delta(G)$. In this paper we extend the concepts of the connectivity to the zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(M)$.

It was shown in many paper that $\Gamma(R)$ is a connected graph with diameter less than or equal to 3.

Theorem 1.1. Let R be a commutative ring. Then $\Gamma(R)$ is finite if and only if R is finite or an integral domain.

Proof: See Theorem 2.2 of [2].

In the following results the connectivity of $\Gamma(R)$ is investigated.

Theorem 1.2. Let R be a finite local ring then $\kappa(\Gamma(R)) = \delta(\Gamma(R))$.

Proof: see Theorem 3.1 of [1].

The following proposition gives a bound for $\kappa(\Gamma(R))$.

Proposition 1.3. Let R be a finite ring. Then $\kappa(\Gamma(R)) \geq \left(\frac{\delta(\Gamma(R))}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

Proof: See Proposition 3.8 of [1].

Theorem 1.4. Let R be a commutative ring and p be a prime number. Then the connectivity of $\Gamma(Z_{p^2})$ is $p-2$.

Proof: see Theorem 3.1 of [11].

Theorem 1.5. Let R be a commutative ring and let p, q be a prime numbers. The connectivity of $\Gamma(Z_{p^m q^n})$ is $\min\{p-1, q-1\}$.

Proof: see Theorem 3.4 of [11].

2 CONCLUSION

Recall that an R -module M is multiplication if $N = (N : M)M$ for every submodule N of M . Clearly every ring is a multiplication module over itself and every cyclic R -module is a multiplication R -module. For more information about multiplication module see [4], [7], and [12].

Let $M = Z_n$ and $R = Z$. It is clear that Z_n is a multiplication Z -module.

Theorem 2.1. Assume that n is a positive integer greater than 1 and n is not a prime number. Then the zero-divisor graph $\Gamma(Z_n)$ is simple if and only if n is square-free.

Proof: see Theorem 5.1 of [8].

Corollary 2.2. The lattice diagram of the group $(Z_n, +)$ is obtained from the zero-divisor graph of the Z -module Z_n , where $n \geq 2$.

Proof: See Corollary 5.4 of [8].

Theorem 2.52. Let M be an R -module. Then $\Gamma(M)$ is a connected graph and

$$\text{diam}(\Gamma(M)) \leq 3.$$

Proof: See Theorem 2.5 of [8].

Theorem 2.2. Let p be a prime number and $M = Z_{p^n}$. If $n \geq 3$ then $\kappa(\Gamma(M)) = p-1$.

Proof: It is clear that $Z(M) = Rp$ and $0 = Rp^n \subset Rp^{n-1} \subset \dots \subset Rp^2 \subset Rp$. By the proof of Theorem 4.1[9], we get $\kappa(\Gamma(M)) = p-1$.

Theorem 2.3. Let $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ be distinct prime numbers and $M = Z_{p_1 \dots p_n}$. Then

$$\kappa(\Gamma(M)) = p_1 - 1.$$

Proof: If $n=2$ then by the proof of Theorem 4.2[9], $\Gamma(M)$ is a complete bipartite graph. So we get the result.

For $n \geq 3$, $\Gamma(M)$ has $(p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1) \dots (p_n - 1)$ complete subgraphs of order n . By the proof of same theorem, we get $\deg(p_1) = p_1 - 1 = \delta(\Gamma(M))$, and there is no vertex-cut of cardinality less than $\delta(\Gamma(M))$, as needed.

Theorem 2.4. Let $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ be distinct prime numbers and Let $M = Z_{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus Z_{p_n}$.

Then $\kappa(\Gamma(M)) = p_1 - 1$.

Proof: Let $a_i \in Z(Z_{p_i})$. Then $\deg(0, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) = p_1 - 1 = \delta(\Gamma(M))$, and there is no vertex-cut of cardinality less than $\delta(\Gamma(M))$ in this graph. Hence the result is hold.

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