

MINIMUM DISTANCE SPECTRAL RADIUS OF GRAPHS WITH GIVEN EDGE CONNECTIVITY

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Abstract: In this paper we study the extremal graphs with minimum distance spectral radius among all connected graphs of order n and edge connectivity r . By using the combinatorial method, we determine that $K(n-1, r)$ is the unique extremal graph, where $K(n-1, r)$ is obtained from the complete graph K_{n-1} by adding a vertex v together with edges joining v to r vertices of K_{n-1} . All the above generalize the related results of the extremal graph theory.

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1 Introduction

Let G be a connected simple graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. The distance between two vertices u, v of G , denoted by dis_{uv} , is defined as the length of the shortest path between u and v in G . The distance matrix of G , denoted by $D(G)$, is defined by $D(G) = (\text{dis}_{uv})_{u,v \in V(G)}$. Since $D(G)$ is symmetric, its eigenvalues are all real. In addition, as $D(G)$ is nonnegative and irreducible, by Perron-Frobenius theorem, the spectral radius $\rho(G)$ of $D(G)$ (called the distance spectral radius of G), is exactly the largest eigenvalue of $D(G)$ with multiplicity one; and there exists a unique (up to a multiple) positive eigenvector corresponding to this eigenvalue, usually referred to the Perron vector of $D(G)$.

The distance matrix is very useful in different fields, including the design of communication networks [1], graph embedding theory [2–4] as well as molecular stability [5, 6]. Balaban et al. [7] proposed the use of the distance spectral radius as a molecular descriptor. Gutman et al. [8] used the distance spectral radius to infer the extent of branching and model boiling points of an alkane. Therefore, maximizing or minimizing the distance spectral radius over a given class of graphs is of great interest and significance. Recently, the maximal or the

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minimal distance spectral radius of a given class of graphs has been studied extensively (see e.g. [9–18]).

Recall that the edge connectivity of a connected graph is the minimum number of edges whose removal disconnects the graph. For convenience, denote by $\mathcal{G}_n^r$ the set of all connected graphs of order n and edge connectivity r . Clearly, $1 \leq r \leq n - 1$, and $\mathcal{G}_n^{n-1}$ consists of the unique graph K_n , where K_n denotes a complete graph of order n . Let $K(p, q)$ ($p \geq q \geq 1$) be a graph obtained from K_p by adding a vertex together with edges joining this vertex to q vertices of K_p . Surely $K(n - 1, r) \in \mathcal{G}_n^r$. In this paper we prove that $K(n - 1, r)$ is the unique graph with minimum distance spectral radius in $\mathcal{G}_n^r$, where $1 \leq r \leq n - 2$.

2 Main Results

Given a graph G on n vertices, a vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is considered as a function defined on G , if there is a 1-1 map φ from $V(G)$ to the entries of x ; simply written $x_u = \varphi(u)$ for each $u \in V(G)$. If x is an eigenvector of $D(G)$, then it is naturally defined on $V(G)$, i.e., x_u is the entry of x corresponding to the vertex u . One can find that

$$x^T D(G)x = \sum_{u,v \in V(G)} \text{dis}_{uv} x_u x_v, \quad (2.1)$$

and λ is an eigenvalue of $D(G)$ corresponding to the eigenvector x if and only if $x \neq 0$ and

$$\lambda x_v = \sum_{u \in V(G)} \text{dis}_{vu} x_u, \text{ for each vertex } v \in V(G). \quad (2.2)$$

In addition, for an arbitrary unit vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$x^T D(G)x \leq \rho(G), \quad (2.3)$$

with the equality holds if and only if x is an eigenvector of $D(G)$ corresponding to $\rho(G)$.

The following lemma is an immediate consequence of Perron-Frobenius theorem.

Lemma 2.1 Let G be a connected graph with $u, v \in V(G)$. If $uv \notin E(G)$, then $\rho(G) > \rho(G + uv)$. If $uv \in E(G)$ and $G - uv$ is also connected, then $\rho(G) < \rho(G - uv)$.

By Lemma 2.1, for a connected graph G on n vertices, we have $\rho(G) \geq \rho(K_n) = n - 1$, with equality holds if and only if $G = K_n$; and $\rho(G) \leq \rho(T_G)$, with equality holds if and only if $G = T_G$, where T_G is a spanning tree of G .

Let G be a graph and let v be a vertex of G . Denote by $N(v)$ the set of neighbors of v in G , and by d_v the degree of v in G (i.e. the cardinality of $N(v)$).

Lemma 2.2 Let G be a connected graph containing two vertices u, v , and let x be a Perron vector of $D(G)$.

(1) If $N(u) \setminus \{v\} \subseteq N(v) \setminus \{u\}$, then $x_u \geq x_v$, with strict inequality if $N(u) \setminus \{v\} \subsetneq N(v) \setminus \{u\}$.

(2) If $N(u) \setminus \{v\} = N(v) \setminus \{u\}$, then $x_u = x_v$.

Proof The second assertion follows from the first or can be found in [11]. So we only prove assertion (1). From (2.2), we have

$$\rho(G)x_u = \text{dis}_{uv}x_v + \sum_{w \in V(G) \setminus \{u,v\}} \text{dis}_{uw}x_w, \quad (2.4)$$

$$\rho(G)x_v = \text{dis}_{vu}x_u + \sum_{w \in V(G) \setminus \{u,v\}} \text{dis}_{vw}x_w. \quad (2.5)$$

Since $N(u) \setminus \{v\} \subseteq N(v) \setminus \{u\}$, for each $w \in V(G) \setminus \{u,v\}$, we have

$$\text{dis}_{uw} \geq \text{dis}_{vw}, \quad (2.6)$$

and hence

$$\sum_{w \in V(G) \setminus \{u,v\}} \text{dis}_{uw}x_w \geq \sum_{w \in V(G) \setminus \{u,v\}} \text{dis}_{vw}x_w. \quad (2.7)$$

By (2.4), (2.5) and (2.7), we get

$$(\rho(G) + \text{dis}_{uv})x_u \geq (\rho(G) + \text{dis}_{uv})x_v.$$

So $x_u \geq x_v$.

If $N(u) \setminus \{v\} \subsetneq N(v) \setminus \{u\}$, then there exists a vertex $w \in (N(v) \setminus \{u\}) \setminus (N(u) \setminus \{v\})$ such that $\text{dis}_{uw} > \text{dis}_{vw} = 1$. So inequality (2.6) is strict for some vertex w and hence (2.7) holds strictly, which implies $x_u > x_v$.

Let $G \in \mathcal{G}_n^r$. Then each vertex v of G holds $d_v \geq r$. If there exists some vertex v of G with $d_v = r$, we have the following result immediately.

Lemma 2.3 Let $G \in \mathcal{G}_n^r$ ($1 \leq r \leq n-2$), which contains a vertex of degree r . Then $\rho(G) \geq \rho(K(n-1, r))$, with equality if and only if $G = K(n-1, r)$.

Proof Let v be a vertex of G such that $d_v = r$. Adding all possible edges within the subgraph of G induced by the vertices of $V(G) \setminus \{v\}$, we will arrive at a graph G' , which is isomorphic to $K(n-1, r)$. If $G \neq G'$, then $\rho(G) > \rho(G') = \rho(K(n-1, r))$ by Lemma 2.1. The result follows.

In the following we discuss the graph $G \in \mathcal{G}_n^r$ each vertex of which has degree greater than r . We will formulate two lemmas about the behaviors of the distance spectral radius under some graph transformations, and then establish the main result of this paper.

Lemma 2.4 Let G be a graph obtained from $K_{n_1} \cup K_{n_2}$ by adding r (≥ 1) edges between u_1 and $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r$, where $V(K_{n_1}) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_1}\}$, $V(K_{n_2}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n_2}\}$, $\min\{n_1, n_2\} \geq r+2$. Let $\tilde{G}$ be the graph obtained from G by deleting the edges of K_{n_1} incident to u_1 and adding all possible edges between the vertices of $V(K_{n_1}) \setminus \{u_1\}$ and those of $V(K_{n_2})$. Then $\rho(G) > \rho(\tilde{G})$.

Proof Arrange in order the vertices of $\tilde{G}$ as $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_1}, v_1, \dots, v_r, v_{r+1}, \dots, v_{n_2}$. Let x be the unit Perron vector of $D(\tilde{G})$. By Lemma 2.2, x may be written as

$$x = (x_1, \underbrace{x_2, \dots, x_2}_{n_1-1}, \underbrace{x_3, \dots, x_3}_r, \underbrace{x_2, \dots, x_2}_{n_2-r})^T, \quad (2.8)$$

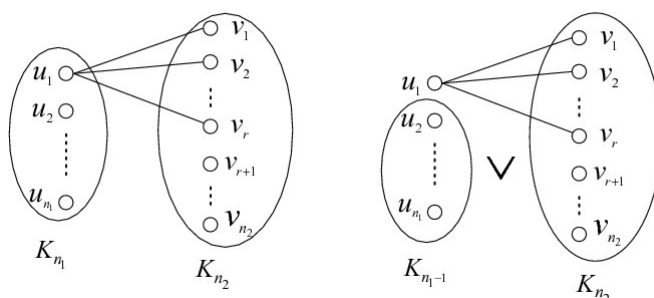


Fig. 2.1: The graphs G (left) and $\tilde{G}$ (right) in Lemma 2.4, where $\vee$ means joining each vertex of K_{n_1-1} and each of K_{n_2}

where $x_3 < x_2 < x_1$. Notice that the transformation from G to $\tilde{G}$ leads to the distance between u_1 and u_i ($i = 2, \dots, n_1$) increasing by 1, the distance between u_i ($i = 2, \dots, n_1$) and v_j ($j = 1, \dots, r$) decreasing by 1, and the distance between u_i ($i = 2, \dots, n_1$) and v_j ($j = r + 1, \dots, n_2$) decreasing by 2, while the distance between any other two vertices having no change. Thus by (2.1) and (2.8),

$$\begin{aligned} x^T D(G)x - x^T D(\tilde{G})x &= -2 \sum_{i=2, \dots, n_1} x_{u_1} x_{u_i} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i=2, \dots, n_1, \\ j=1, \dots, r}} x_{u_i} x_{v_j} + 4 \sum_{\substack{i=2, \dots, n_1, \\ j=r+1, \dots, n_2}} x_{u_i} x_{v_j} \\ &= -2(n_1 - 1)x_1 x_2 + 2r(n_1 - 1)x_2 x_3 + 4(n_1 - 1)(n_2 - r)x_2^2 \\ &= 2(n_1 - 1)x_2[-x_1 + rx_3 + 2(n_2 - r)x_2]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

Considering (2.2) on the vertex u_1 of $\tilde{G}$, we get

$$\rho(\tilde{G})x_1 = \rho(\tilde{G})x_{u_1} = \sum_{i=1}^r x_{v_i} + \sum_{j=r+1}^{n_2} 2x_{v_j} + \sum_{k=2}^{n_1} 2x_{u_k} = rx_3 + 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)x_2. \quad (2.10)$$

Noting that $\rho(\tilde{G}) > n_1 + n_2 - 1$, from (2.10) we have

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{\rho(\tilde{G})}[rx_3 + 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)x_2] < rx_3 + 2(n_2 - r)x_2. \quad (2.11)$$

By (2.9) and (2.11), we get $x^T D(G)x - x^T D(\tilde{G})x > 0$. So according to (2.3) we get

$$\rho(G) \geq x^T D(G)x > x^T D(\tilde{G})x = \rho(\tilde{G}).$$

Lemma 2.5 Let G be a graph obtained from $K_{n_1} \cup K_{n_2}$ by adding t (≥ 1) edges between u_1 and $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t$ and $r - t$ (≥ 1) edges between some vertices of $V(K_{n_1}) \setminus \{u_1\}$ and some vertices of $V(K_{n_2})$, where $V(K_{n_1}) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_1}\}$, $V(K_{n_2}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, u_{n_2}\}$,

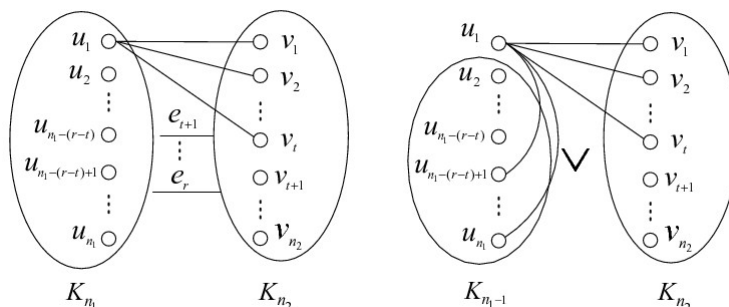


Fig. 2.2: The graphs G (left) and $\tilde{G}$ (right) in Lemma 2.5, where $\vee$ means joining each vertex of K_{n_1-1} and each of K_{n_2}

$\min\{n_1, n_2\} \geq r + 2$. Let $\tilde{G}$ be a graph obtained from G by deleting $n_1 - (r + 1 - t)$ edges of K_{n_1} between u_1 and u_i for $i = 2, \dots, n_1 - (r - t)$, and adding all possible edges between the vertices of $V(K_{n_1}) \setminus \{u_1\}$ and those of $V(K_{n_2})$. Then $\rho(G) > \rho(\tilde{G})$.

Proof Arrange in order the vertices of $V(\tilde{G})$ as $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_1-(r-t)}, u_{n_1-(r-t)+1}, \dots, u_{n_1}, v_1, \dots, v_t, v_{t+1}, \dots, v_{n_2}$. Let x be the unit Perron vector of $D(\tilde{G})$. By Lemma 2.2, x may be written as

$$x = (x_1, \underbrace{x_2, \dots, x_2}_{n_1-(r+1-t)}, \underbrace{x_3, \dots, x_3}_{r-t}, \underbrace{x_3, \dots, x_3}_t, \underbrace{x_2, \dots, x_2}_{n_2-t})^T, \quad (2.12)$$

where $x_3 < x_2 < x_1$. Let

$$U_1 = \{u_2, \dots, u_{n_1-(r-t)}\}, U_2 = \{u_{n_1-(r-t)+1}, \dots, u_{n_1}\}, V_1 = \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}, V_2 = \{v_{t+1}, \dots, v_{n_2}\}.$$

Assume that in the graph G there are r_{ij} edges between U_i and V_j for $i, j = 1, 2$. Surely, $r_{11} + r_{12} + r_{21} + r_{22} = r - t$. Denote by F the set of order pairs (u, v) such that uv is an edge of G , where $u \in U_1 \cup U_2, v \in V_1 \cup V_2$, and by (U_i, V_j) the set of order pairs (u, v) , where $u \in U_i, v \in V_j, i, j = 1, 2$. Then by (2.1)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}[x^T D(\tilde{G})x - x^T D(G)x] &= \sum_{u \in U_1} x_u x_u - \sum_{(u,v) \in (U_1, V_1) \setminus F} x_u x_v - \sum_{(u,v) \in (U_1, V_2) \setminus F} \delta_{uv} x_u x_v \\ &\quad - \sum_{(u,v) \in (U_2, V_1) \setminus F} x_u x_v - \sum_{(u,v) \in (U_2, V_2) \setminus F} \delta_{uv} x_u x_v, \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

where $\delta_{uv} = 2$ if u, v has distance 3 in the graph G , and $\delta_{uv} = 1$ otherwise. By (2.12) and

(2.13), and taking $\delta_{uv} = 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{2}[x^T D(\tilde{G})x - x^T D(G)x] \leq [n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]x_1x_2 - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]t - r_{11}\}x_2x_3 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t) - r_{12}\}x_2^2 - [(r - t)t - r_{21}]x_3^2 \\
 & - [(r - t)(n_2 - t) - r_{22}]x_2x_3 \\
 = & [n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]x_1x_2 - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]t + (r - t)(n_2 - t)\}x_2x_3 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t)\}x_2^2 - (r - t)tx_3^2 \\
 & + (r_{11} + r_{22})x_2x_3 + r_{12}x_2^2 + r_{21}x_3^2 \\
 \leq & [n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]x_1x_2 - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]t + (r - t)(n_2 - t)\}x_2x_3 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t)\}x_2^2 - (r - t)tx_3^2 + (r - t)x_2^2 \\
 = & [n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]x_1x_2 - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]t + (r - t)(n_2 - t)\}x_2x_3 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t) - (r - t)\}x_2^2 - (r - t)tx_3^2. \tag{2.14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Considering (2.2) on the vertex u_1 of $\tilde{G}$, we get

$$\rho(\tilde{G})x_1 = rx_3 + 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)x_2.$$

So $x_1 = \frac{1}{\rho(\tilde{G})}[rx_3 + 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)x_2] < \frac{1}{n_1 + n_2 - 1}[rx_3 + 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)x_2]$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{2}x^T[D(\tilde{G}) - D(G)]x & < \frac{n_1 - 1 - (r - t)}{n_1 + n_2 - 1}rx_2x_3 + \frac{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)] \cdot 2(n_1 + n_2 - r - 1)}{n_1 + n_2 - 1}x_2^2 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]t + (r - t)(n_2 - t)\}x_2x_3 \\
 & - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t) - (r - t)\}x_2^2 - (r - t)tx_3^2. \tag{2.15}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let a, b, c be the coefficients of x_2^2, x_2x_3, x_3^2 in (2.15), respectively. Noting that $\min\{n_1, n_2\} \geq r + 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &= 2[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](1 - \frac{r}{n_1 + n_2 - 1}) - \{[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](n_2 - t) - (r - t)\} \\
 &= 2[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](1 - \frac{r}{n_1 + n_2 - 1} - \frac{n_2 - t}{2}) + (r - t) \\
 &< 2[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](1 - \frac{n_2 - t}{2}) + (r - t) \\
 &\leq 2[n_1 - 1 - (r - t)]\frac{2 - n_2 + t}{2} + (n_2 - 2 - t) \\
 &= -(n_2 - t - 2)[n_1 - 2 - (r - t)] < 0, \\
 b &= [n_1 - 1 - (r - t)](\frac{r}{n_1 + n_2 - 1} - t) - (r - t)(n_2 - t) < 0, \\
 c &= -(r - t)t < 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $x^T D(\tilde{G})x - x^T D(G)x < 0$, and hence $\rho(G) \geq x^T D(G)x > x^T D(\tilde{G})x = \rho(\tilde{G})$.

Lemma 2.6 Let G be a connected graph, and let E_c be an edge cut set of G of size r (≥ 1) such that $G - E_c = K_{n_1} \cup K_{n_2}$, where $n_1 + n_2 = n$. If $d_v > r$ for each vertex $v \in V(G)$, then $n_1 \geq r + 2, n_2 \geq r + 2$.

Proof If $n_1 \leq r$, then there exists a vertex u of K_{n_1} such that

$$d(u) \leq n_1 - 1 + \frac{r}{n_1} \leq (n_1 - 1) \frac{r}{n_1} + \frac{r}{n_1} = r,$$

a contradiction. If $n_1 = r + 1$, then there exists a vertex w not incident with any edges of E_c , which implies $d(u) = r$, also a contradiction. The discussion for the assertion on n_2 is similar.

Theorem 2.7 For each $r = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$, the graph $K(n - 1, r)$ is the unique graph with minimum distance spectral radius in $\mathcal{G}_n^r$.

Proof Let G be a graph that attains the minimum distance spectral radius in $\mathcal{G}_n^r$. Note that each vertex of G has degree not less than r . If there exists a vertex u of G with degree r , by Lemma 2.3, $\rho(G) \geq \rho(K(n - 1, r))$, with equality if and only if $G = K(n - 1, r)$. So the result follows in this case.

Next we assume all vertices of G have degrees greater than r . Let E_c be an edge cut set of G containing r edges, and let G_1, G_2 be two components of $G - E_c$ with order n_1, n_2 respectively. We assert $G_1 = K_{n_1}$ and $G_2 = K_{n_2}$; otherwise adding all possible edges within G_1, G_2 we would get a graph with smaller distance spectral radius by Lemma 2.1. By Lemma 2.6, $n_1 \geq r + 2, n_2 \geq r + 2$. Let u_1 be a vertex of G_1 such that u_1 joins t vertices of G_2 , where $1 \leq t \leq r$. If $t = r$, by Lemma 2.4 there exists a graph $\tilde{G} \cong K(n - 1, r)$ such that $\rho(G) > \rho(\tilde{G})$. If $1 \leq t < r$, by Lemma 2.5 there also exists a graph $\tilde{G} \cong K(n - 1, r)$, such that $\rho(G) > \rho(\tilde{G})$. This completes the proof.

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给定边连通度的图的最小距离谱半径

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摘要: 本文研究了边连通度为 r 的 n 阶连通图中距离谱半径最小的极图问题. 利用组合的方法, 确定了 $K(n-1, r)$ 为唯一的极图, 其中 $K(n-1, r)$ 是由完全图 K_{n-1} 添加一个顶点 v 以及连接 v 与 K_{n-1} 中 r 个顶点的边所构成. 上述结论推广了极图理论中的相关结果.

关键词: 图; 距离矩阵; 谱半径; 边连通度

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