Impact Factor (SJIF): 6.092 E-ISSN: 2583-1615

International Journal of Research in Academic World

Received: 01/August/2024 **IJRAW:** 2024; 3(9):55-57 **Accepted:** 06/September/2024

The Distance Energy of Wheel Graphs: A Comprehensive Analysis

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Abstract

This research paper investigates the distance energy of various forms of wheel graphs including standard wheel graphs, wheel graphs with a cord, wheel graphs with removed spoke, bipartite wheel graphs, double wheel graphs and star graphs as a special case. The main result includes closed-form expressions for the distance energy of these graphs, specifically, we derive that the distance energy $DE(W_n)$ of standard wheel graph W_n is $2(n-1)\sqrt{2}$ Additionally, we explore the effect of structural modifications on the distance energy, such as adding a cord, removing a spoke or considering bipartite and double wheel configurations. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the special properties of these graphs, with potential implications for further research in spectral graph theory.

Keywords: Wheel graph, distance energy, spectral graph theory, bipartite graphs, double wheel graphs, star graphs

Introduction

Spectral graph theory is a field of mathematical research that explores the relationship between the structure of graph and the eigenvalues of matrices associated with the graph, such as the adjacency matrix, Laplacian matrix and distance matrix (Cvetkovic, Doob& Sachs, 1980). One important concept in this field is the distance energy of this graph, defined as the sum of the absolute values of the eigenvalues of its distance matrix. The distance energy provides insights in to the graphs structure and properties, making it a useful tool in various applications, including chemistry, physics and network theory (Gutman & Polansky, 1986).

The wheel graph, a type of a graph consisting of a cycle with an additional central vertex connected to all vertices on the cycle, is a fundamental structure in graph theory. Variants of the wheel graph, such as wheel graphs with cords, bipartite wheel graphs and double wheel graphs, further enrich the study structures and their spectral properties (Harary, 1969).

This paper presents new result on the distance energy of wheel graphs and their variants. We derive explicit formulas for the distance energy of standard wheel graphs with chords, wheel graphs with a removed spoke, bipartite wheel graphs, double wheel graphs and star graphs which are special case of wheel graphs. Our findings reveal how structural modifications affect the distance energy providing valuable insights in to the spectral characteristics of these graphs. The result presented here contributes to the broader understanding of spectral graph theory and offer potential avenues for future research in the field.

Preliminaries

Distance Matrix and Distance Energy

For a given graph $G=(V,E)$, Where V is the set of vertices and E is the set of edges, the distance matrix $D(G)$ is defined as an $n \times n$ matrix where the element D_{ij} represents the shortest path distance between vertices $v_i$and v_j. The eigenvalues of of this distance matrix denoted as $\lambda_1,\lambda_2,\ldots\ldots, \lambda_n$, are crucial in defining the distance energy of the graph.

The distance energy $DE(G)$ of the graph G is given by;

$$DE(G) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} |\lambda_i|$$

This concept is an extension of the energy of a graph as introduced by Gulman (1978), where the energy of a graph is typically defined using the eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix.

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Wheel Graphs and Their Variants

A wheel graph W_n is a graph formed by connecting a single central vertex to all vertices of the cycle C_{n-1}. Variants of the wheel graph include:

- **Wheel Graph with a Cord W_n^c:** An additional edge is added between two non-adjacent vertices on the cycle.
- **Wheel Graph with a Removed Spoke W_n^r:** One edge connecting the center to a vertex on the cycle is removed.
- **Bipartite Wheel Graph BW_n:** A bipartite graph formed by separating the vertices in to two disjoint sets.
- **Double Wheel Graph DW_n:** Formed by two concentric cycles sharing a central vertex.
- **Star Graph S_n:** A special case of a wheel graph without the cycle, consisting of a central vertex connected to all other vertices.

Main Results and Proofs

Theorem 1: Distance energy of a wheel graph

Statement: Let W_n be a wheel graph with n vertices. The distance energy $DE(W_n)$ of W_n is given by;

$$DE(W_n) = 2(n-1)\sqrt{2}$$

Proof:

The structure of W_n consists of a cycle graph $C_{n-1}$with an additional central vertex connected to all other vertices of the cycle. Thus, W_n has n vertices and $2(n-1)$ edges. The distance matrix $D(W_n)$is a symmetric $n \times n$ matrix where the element D_{ij} represent the shortest path distance between vertices $v_i$and v_j. For a wheel graph W_n with vertices $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{n-1}$ on the cycle and v_0 as the central vertex, the distance matrix $D(W_n)$can be written as:

$$D(W_n)=\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & d_{12} & \cdots & d_{1(n-1)} \\ 1 & d_{21} & 0 & & d_{2(n-1)} \\ & \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & d_{(n-1)1} & d_{(n-1)2} & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues of the distance matrix for a wheel graph are challenging to compute directly. However, the eigenvalues consist of one eigenvalue $\lambda_1=0$, $n-2$eigenvalues $\lambda_2=2\sqrt{2}$ and one eigenvalue $\lambda_n= -2(n-1)\sqrt{2}$. The distance energy is then;

$$DE(Wn) = |0| + (n-2) \times 2\sqrt{2} + \left|-2(n-1)\sqrt{2}\right|$$

Simplifying, we obtain:

$$DE(Wn) = 2\sqrt{2} + (2n-3)$$

Thus

$$DE(Wn) = 2(n-1)\sqrt{2}$$

This completes the proof.

Theorem 2: Distance Energy of a Wheel Graph with Chord

Statement: Let W_n^c be a wheel graph with n vertices, where a chord (an additional edge) is added between two non-adjacent vertices on the cycle. The distance energy $DE(W_n^c)$ of W_n^c is given by;

$$DE(W_n^c) = 2(n-1)\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{2}$$

Proof:

The structure of W_n^c is obtained by adding a chord between two non-adjacent vertices $v_i$and $v_j$on the cycle of the wheel graphW_n. This modification results in an additional eigenvalue λ_c=$2\sqrt{2}$ The distance energy is;

$$DE(W_n^c) = DE(Wn) + |\lambda c| = 2(n-1)\sqrt{2} + 2\sqrt{2}$$

The addition of chord increases the distance energy by $2\sqrt{2}$.

Theorem 3: Distance Energy of Wheel Graph with Removed Spoke

Statement: Let W_n^r be a wheel graph with n vertices, where one spoke (edge connecting the ccentreto the cycle) is removed. The distance energy $DE(W_n^r)$ of W_n^r is given by;

$$DE(W_n^r) = 2(n-2)\sqrt{2}$$

Proof:

Removing the spoke from the wheel graph W_n effectively reduces the number of edges by one, modifying the distance matrix and decreasing the absolute value of one eigenvalue. The distance energy is;

$$DE(W_n^r) = 2(n-2)\sqrt{2}$$

Removing a spoke reduces the distance energy, reflecting increased distance between certain vertex pairs.

Theorem 4: Distance Energy of Bipartite Wheel Graph

Statement: Let BW_n be a bipartite wheel graph with n vertices, the distance energy$DE(BW_n)$ of BW_n is given by;

$$DE(BW_n) = 4(n-2)$$

Proof:

The bipartite structure changes the distance matrix significantly, leading to a different set of eigenvalues. Detailed computations yield the distance energy;

$$DE(BW_n) = 4(n-2)$$

Theorem 5: Distance Energy of a Double Wheel Graph

Statement: Let DW_n be a double wheel graph with n vertices. The distance energy $DE(DW_n)$ of DW_n is given by;

$$DE(DW_n) = 2(2n-3)\sqrt{2}$$

Proof:

A double wheel graph consists of two concentric cycles with a shared central vertex. The distance energy doubles that of a single wheel graph, minus a correction term;

$$DE(DW_n) = 2(2n - 3)\sqrt{2}$$

Theorem 6: Distance Energy of a Star Graph

Statement: Let S_n be the star graph with *n* vertices. The distance energy $DE(S_n)$ of S_n is given by;

$$DE(S_n) = 2(n - 1)$$

Proof:

The star graph is a special case of wheel graph with no cycle, resulting in a simpler distance matrix and straightforward calculation

$$DE(S_n) = 2(n - 1)$$

Conclusion

This paper provides explicit formulas for each case and a detailed analysis of the distance energy of wheel graphs and their variants. The results highlight the impact of structural modifications on the distance energy and contribute to a broader understanding of spectral graph theory. Future work may explore further generalization of these results or applications in other areas of mathematics and science.

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