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## PRODUCTS OF GRAPHS AND NORDHAUS-GADDUM TYPE INEQUALITIES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we obtain  $\alpha$  as coefficient for the  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and by which we discuss Nikiforov's conjecture for  $\lambda_1$  and Aouchiche and Hansen's conjecture for  $q_1$  in Nordhaus-Gaddum type inequalities. Furthermore, by the properties of the products of graphs we put forward a new approach to find some bounds of Nordhaus-Gaddum type inequalities.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges. Suppose that  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G$  and  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$  the vertex degrees of  $G$  such that  $\Delta = d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_n = \delta$ . We denote the complement graph of  $G$  by  $\overline{G}$ . The matrices  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$  and  $Q(G) = D(G) + A(G)$  are called the Laplacian and the signless Laplacian of  $G$  where  $D(G)$  is the diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are the vertex degrees of  $G$ . The eigenvalues of the matrices  $A(G)$ ,  $L(G)$  and  $Q(G)$  are denoted by  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$ ,  $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n$ , and  $q_1 \geq q_2 \geq \dots \geq q_n$ , respectively. Suppose that  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1$  and  $q_1$  and by Perron-Frobenius theorem, assume that all entries of  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are positive. We call these vectors Perron-eigenvectors. Also we consider the maximum entries of  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are 1. In case we have several maximum entries for Perron-eigenvector, we just choose and fix one of them. For any vertex  $u \in V(G)$ , we denote the entry of the eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$  on  $u$  by  $\mathbf{v}(u)$ . The set of the neighbors of vertex  $v_i$  are denoted by  $N(v_i)$  and  $\overline{N(v_i)}$  is the set  $V - N(v_i)$ . Suppose  $G$  and  $H$  are two disjoint graphs, denote by  $G \cup H$  and  $G \nabla H$

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disjoint union and join of  $G$  and  $H$ , respectively. The Cartesian product of two simple graphs  $G$  and  $H$  denoted by  $G \square H$ .

A classical paper of Nordhaus and Gaddum [9] established the following inequalities for the chromatic numbers  $\chi(G)$  and  $\chi(\overline{G})$

$$2\sqrt{n} \leq \chi(G) + \chi(\overline{G}) \leq n + 1,$$

$$n \leq \chi(G)\chi(\overline{G}) \leq \frac{(n+1)^2}{4}.$$

Initially, Aouchiche and Hansen in the paper [1] said that, this type of relation did not attract much attention. Actually, the first detailed study of these relations came almost a decade after the publication of the paper of Nordhaus and Gaddum [9]. But later, there was broader attention to the problem of Nordhaus-Gaddum in obtaining the upper and lower bounds for sum and product parameters of a graph and its complement. We recall some of these results for parameters  $\lambda_1$  and  $q_1$ . For  $\lambda_1$  and  $\overline{\lambda}_1$  of graphs  $G$  and  $\overline{G}$ , Nikiforov [8] conjectured that

$$(1.1) \quad \lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1 \leq \frac{4}{3}n + O(1).$$

This conjecture was proved by Terpai [12]. Some other results on  $\lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1$  are

$$(1.2) \quad \lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1 \leq \sqrt{2n(n-1) - 4\delta(n-1-\Delta) + 1} - 1, \quad [6]$$

$$(1.3) \quad \lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1 \leq \sqrt{2((n-1)^2 - 2\delta n + 2\Delta\delta - \Delta + 3\delta)}, \quad [10]$$

$$(1.4) \quad \lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1 \leq \frac{n - \Delta + \delta - 3 + \sqrt{2((n-\Delta)^2 + 4n(\Delta-\delta)^2(\delta+1))}}{2}. \quad [10]$$

There was another conjecture for  $q_1$  and  $\overline{q}_1$ ,

$$(1.5) \quad q_1 + \overline{q}_1 \leq 3n - 4. \quad [1]$$

This conjecture was proved by Ashraf and Tayfeh-Rezaie [2]. Other conjecture by Aouchiche and Hansen was

$$(1.6) \quad q_1 \overline{q}_1 \leq 2n(n-2), \quad [1]$$

that disproved by Ashraf and Tayfeh-Rezaie [2].

In this paper, we obtain  $\alpha$  as coefficient for graph  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and discuss obtained bound by Nikiforov [8] for  $\lambda_1 + \overline{\lambda}_1$ , also conjectured bound by Aouchiche and Hansen in [1] for  $q_1 + \overline{q}_1$ . In section 2, we use the structure of graph products to provide a theory to obtain upper bounds for Nordhaus-Gaddum type inequalities for sum or product of the greatest eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix and Laplacian and singless Laplacian matrices of the graphs  $G$  and  $\overline{G}$ .

### 2. Extremal Graphs Of Nordhaus- Gaddum Bounds

In this section we provide a value of  $\alpha$  as the coefficient of the number of vertices of  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and then occurrence of equality of the two bounds that can be seen in the following.

**Conjecture 2.1.** [8] For any graph  $G$  on  $n$  vertices,

$$(2.1) \quad \lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1 \leq \frac{4}{3}n + O(1).$$

**Conjecture 2.2.** [1] Let  $G$  be a simple graph on  $n \geq 2$  vertices. Then,

$$(2.2) \quad q_1 + \bar{q}_1 \leq 3n - 4.$$

For  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , suppose that  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and  $\bar{G} = \overline{K_{\alpha n}} \nabla K_{(1-\alpha)n}$  that are displayed in Figure 1. To obtain eigenvalues  $\bar{\lambda}_1$  and  $\bar{q}_1$  of  $\bar{G}$  we use the following theorems.

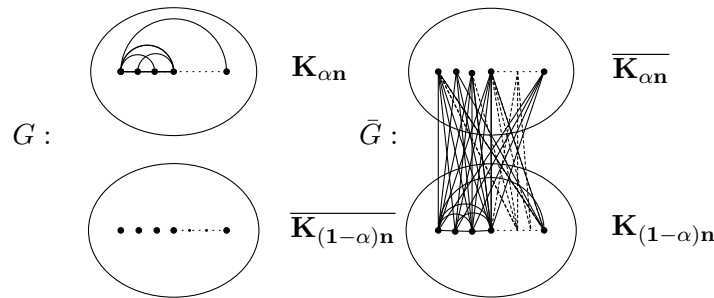


FIGURE 1.  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and  $\bar{G} = \overline{K_{\alpha n}} \nabla K_{(1-\alpha)n}$

**Theorem 2.3.** [11] Let  $G_i$  be an  $r_i$ -regular graph on  $n_i$  vertices for  $i = 1, 2$ . If  $P(A(G_i), \lambda)$  is the characteristic polynomial of  $G_i$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , then

$$(2.3) \quad P(A(G_1 \nabla G_2), \lambda) = \frac{P(A(G_1), \lambda)P(A(G_2), \lambda)}{(\lambda - r_1)(\lambda - r_2)} [(\lambda - r_1)(\lambda - r_2) - n_1 n_2].$$

**Theorem 2.4.** [5] Let  $G_i$  be an  $r_i$ -regular graph on  $n_i$  vertices for  $i = 1, 2$ . If  $\phi_{G_i}(q)$  is the signless Laplacian characteristic polynomial of  $G_i$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , then

$$(2.4) \quad \phi(Q(G_1 \nabla G_2), q) = \frac{\phi(Q(G_1), q - n_2)\phi(Q(G_2), q - n_1)}{(q - 2r_1 - n_2)(q - 2r_2 - n_1)} f(q)$$

where  $f(q) = q^2 - (2(r_1 + r_2) + (n_1 + n_2))q + 2(2r_1 r_2 + r_1 n_1 + r_2 n_2)$ .

First, we consider  $\lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1$  for the graphs  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and  $\bar{G} = \overline{K_{\alpha n}} \nabla K_{(1-\alpha)n}$ ,

$$(2.5) \quad (\lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1)(\alpha) = \alpha n - 1 + \frac{1}{2}(n - \alpha n - 1 + \sqrt{n^2 - 3\alpha^2 n^2 + 2\alpha n^2 + 2\alpha n - 2n}).$$

For the maximum value of  $(\lambda + \bar{\lambda}_1)(\alpha)$  by using derivative we have,

$$(2.6) \quad \alpha_{max} = \frac{n + 1 + \sqrt{n^2 - n + 1}}{3n}.$$

By substituting  $\alpha_{max}$  in relation (2.5), we have

$$(2.7) \quad (\lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1)(\alpha) \leq \frac{4n - 5 + 4\sqrt{n^2 - n + 1}}{6} < \frac{4}{3}n - 1.$$

The obtained  $\alpha$  in relation (2.6) tends to  $\frac{2}{3}$ , when  $n$  tends to infinity and relation (2.7) tends to  $\frac{4}{3}n$ . Now, we conjecture the following:

**Conjecture 2.5.** *Let  $G$  be a simple graph on  $n$  vertices. Then*

$$(2.8) \quad \lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1 \leq \frac{4n - 5 + 4\sqrt{n^2 - n + 1}}{6}.$$

Now, we consider  $q_1 + \bar{q}_1$  for the graphs  $G = K_{\alpha n} \cup \overline{K_{(1-\alpha)n}}$  and  $\bar{G} = \overline{K_{\alpha n}} \nabla K_{(1-\alpha)n}$ .

$$(2.9) \quad (q_1 + \bar{q}_1)(\alpha) = 2(\alpha n - 1) + \frac{1}{2}(3n - 2\alpha n - 2 + \sqrt{n^2 - 4\alpha^2 n^2 + 4\alpha n^2 - 4n + 4}).$$

As is mentioned above, the maximum value of  $(q_1 + \bar{q}_1)(\alpha)$  by using its derivative, is at

$$(2.10) \quad \alpha_{max} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{2(n-1)}{n^2}}}{2}.$$

By substituting  $\alpha_{max}$  in relation (2.9), we have

$$(2.11) \quad (q_1 + \bar{q}_1)(\alpha_{max}) = \sqrt{n^2 - 2n + 2} + 2n - 3.$$

Because  $n - 1 < n\alpha_{max} < n$  and  $1 \leq n\alpha \leq n - 1$ , the maximum value of  $q_1 + \bar{q}_1$  for simple graphs is for  $n\alpha = n - 1$  and we have

$$(2.12) \quad q_1 + \bar{q}_1 \leq (q_1 + \bar{q}_1)_{(\alpha=\frac{n-1}{n})} = 3n - 4 < \sqrt{n^2 - 2n + 2} + 2n - 3.$$

### 3. Upper Bound For Problems Of Nordhaus-Gaddum Type By Using Product Of Graph

In the following, some definitions of the products of graphs are recalled :

**Definition 3.1.** [3] *Direct product of two simple graphs  $G$  and  $H$  denoted by  $G \times H$  has the vertex-set  $V(G) \times V(H)$ . For any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and  $x, y \in V(H)$ ,  $(u, x)$  is adjacent to  $(v, y)$  if  $uv \in E(G)$  and  $xy \in E(H)$ . The adjacency matrix of  $G \times H$  is the direct product of the adjacency matrices of  $G$  and  $H$ .*

*If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are eigenvectors for  $G$  and  $H$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) and  $\lambda'_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ), respectively, then the vector  $w = \alpha \otimes \beta$  is an eigenvector of  $G \times H$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_i \lambda'_j$ .*

**Remark 3.2.** *The direct product is also called, the tensor product categorical product, cardinal product, relational product, Kronecker product, weak direct product, or conjunction. The notation  $G \times H$  is also sometimes used to represent another construction known as the Cartesian product of graphs, but more commonly refers to the direct product.*

The tensor product of matrices  $A = [a_{ij}]$  and  $B = [b_{ij}]$  of orders  $m \times p$  and  $n \times q$ , respectively, is the matrix  $A \otimes B$  of order  $mn \times pq$  defined by

$$A \otimes B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}B & \cdots & a_{1p}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1}B & \cdots & a_{mp}B \end{bmatrix}$$

**Definition 3.3.** [3] *The Cartesian product of two simple graphs  $G$  and  $H$  denoted by  $G \square H$  has the vertex-set  $V(G) \times V(H)$ . For any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and  $x, y \in V(H)$ ,  $(u, x)$  is adjacent to  $(v, y)$  if  $u = v$  and  $xy \in E(H)$  or  $uv \in E(G)$  and  $x = y$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  be adjacency matrices of graphs  $G$  and  $H$  of orders  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively. Its adjacency is  $A \otimes I_n + I_m \otimes B$ .*

*If  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  are eigenvectors for  $G$  and  $H$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_i (1 \leq i \leq m)$  and  $\lambda'_j (1 \leq j \leq n)$ , respectively, then the vector  $\mathbf{w} = \alpha \otimes \beta$  is an eigenvector of  $G \square H$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_i + \lambda'_j$ .*

**Definition 3.4.** [3] *The strong product of two simple graphs  $G$  and  $H$  denoted by  $G \boxtimes H$  has the vertex-set  $V(G) \times V(H)$ . For any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and  $x, y \in V(H)$ ,  $(u, x)$  is adjacent to  $(v, y)$  if  $u = v$  and  $xy \in E(H)$  or  $uv \in E(G)$  and  $x = y$  or. If  $A$  and  $B$  are the adjacency matrices of  $G$  and  $H$  of orders  $m$  and  $n$  then,  $A \otimes B + A \otimes I_n + I_m \otimes B$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G \boxtimes H$ . It follows that the eigenvalues of  $G \boxtimes H$  are the numbers  $(\lambda_i + 1)(\lambda'_j + 1) - 1$ , where  $\lambda_i$  and  $\lambda'_j$  the eigenvalues of  $G$  and  $H$ , respectively.*

**Theorem 3.5.** [5] *Let the Laplacian eigenvalues of graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are  $\mu_i$  and  $\mu_j$ . The Laplacian eigenvalues of the Cartesian product  $G \square H$  of graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are equal to all the possible sums of eigenvalues of the two factors:*

$$\mu_i + \mu_j \quad 1 \leq i \leq |V_G| \quad \text{and} \quad 1 \leq j \leq |V(H)|$$

**Remark 3.6.** *Suppose that  $G$  and  $H$  are two arbitrary graphs. We have for the matrices  $A(G)$  and  $A(H)$*

$$\begin{aligned} Q(G \square H) &= D(G \square H) + A(G \square H) = (D(G) \otimes I + I \otimes D(H)) + (A(G) \otimes I + I \otimes A(H)) \\ &= (D(G) + A(G)) \otimes I + I \otimes (D(H) + A(H)) = Q(G) \otimes I + I \otimes Q(H). \end{aligned}$$

*So we can conclude similar to Theorem 3.5 for singless Laplacian eigenvalues.*

Using the properties of Cartesian product of adjacency, Laplacian, and singless Laplacian matrices in [3], [5], and Remark 3.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 + \bar{\lambda}_1 &= \lambda_1(G \square \bar{G}). \\ \mu + \bar{\mu}_1 &= \mu_1(G \square \bar{G}). \\ q_1 + \bar{q}_1 &= q_1(G \square \bar{G}). \end{aligned}$$

In conclusion, by using the properties and structure of Cartesian product, we can obtain upper bounds for Nordhaus-Gaddum type inequalities of sum of eigenvalues. In fact, it is hoped that, by using the

properties of product of graphs, we can obtain better bounds of Nordhaus-Gaddum type inequalities by easier and better methods.

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