

Bicyclic Graphs with Extremal Multiplicative Degree-Kirchhoff Index

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Abstract For a graph G , the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index is defined as $R^*(G) = \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V(G)} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x,y)$. Based on the previous research results similar to the additive degree-Kirchhoff index in the bicyclic graphs, the method of the same problem on the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index to the bicyclic graphs are discussed. First, some transformations on $R^*(G)$ are given, and then according to these transformations, the values of the minimum and maximum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index of bicyclic graphs with n -vertex having precisely two cycles are obtained and the corresponding extremal graphs are characterized. The degree-Kirchhoff index is widely used in the fields of electrical network, chemistry, Markov chain and Euclidean distance and so on.

Keywords distance; multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index; bicyclic graphs

中图分类号 O157 文献标识码 A 文章编号 1672-4321(2017)02-0148-07

具有乘积度-基尔霍夫指标极值的双圈图

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摘要 对于一个图 G , 乘积度-基尔霍夫指标定义为 $R^*(G) = \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V(G)} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x,y)$. 基于前人的一些研究成果, 用类似于和的度-基尔霍夫指标应用在双圈图中的方法, 把乘积度-基尔霍夫指标运用到双圈图中. 首先给出了关于 $R^*(G)$ 的一些图变换, 然后根据这些图变换, 确定了恰好有两个圈的 n 阶双圈图的最小和最大的乘积度-基尔霍夫指标的值及其对应的极值图. 度-基尔霍夫指标广泛应用于电流网络、化学、马尔可夫链和欧氏距离等各个方面.

关键词 距离; 乘积度-基尔霍夫指标; 双圈图

Let $G = (V(G), E(G))$ be a connected simple graph. The distance $d_G(x, y)$ is defined as the length of a shortest path between vertices x and y in G . Suppose that G_1 and G_2 are two disjoint connected graphs with $u_1 \in V(G_1)$ and $u_2 \in V(G_2)$, let $(G_1, u_1) \oplus (G_2, u_2)$ be the graph created by coalescence of vertices u_1 and u_2 . A graph G is called bicyclic graph if $|E(G)| = |V(G)| + 1$ [1, 2].

Let $\mathcal{B}_n^{p,q}$ be the class of bicyclic graphs with exactly two cycles $C_p = v_1 v_2 \cdots v_p v_1$ and $C_q = u_1 u_2 \cdots u_q u_1$, which

is connected by a path $P = v_1 w_1 \cdots w_{m-1} u_1$. Let T_{v_i}, T_{u_j} and T_{w_k} be trees rooted at v_i, u_j and w_k , respectively, as shown in Fig. 1.

We say a tree T is trivial if $|V(T)| = 1$. If $v_1 (= u_1)$ is the unique common vertex of C_p and C_q , let $S_n^{p,q}$ be the graph obtained from cycles C_p and C_q by attaching $n + 1 - p - q$ pendent edges to v_1 . Let $P_n^{p,q}$ be the graph obtained from C_p and C_q , which is connected by a path of length $n - p - q + 1$, as shown in Fig. 2. The Kirchhoff index $Kf(G)$ [3, 4], proposed by Klein et

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基金项目 国家自然科学基金资助项目(61070197); 中南民族大学中央高校基本科研业务费专项资金资助项目(CZQ10007)

al. is defined as $Kf(G) = \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V(G)} r_G(x,y)$. The additive degree-Kirchhoff index $R^+(G)$ pointed by I. Gutman et al^[5] is defined as

$$R^+(G) = \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V(G)} (d_G(x) + d_G(y)) r_G(x,y).$$

The multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index, introduced by Chen and Zhang in Ref [6], is defined as $R^*(G) = \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V(G)} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x,y)$.

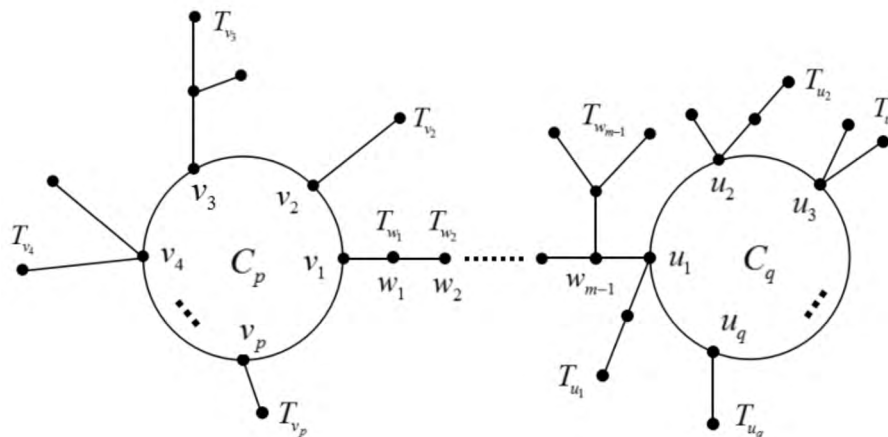


Fig.1 Graph $\beta_n^{p,q}$
图 1 图 $\beta_n^{p,q}$

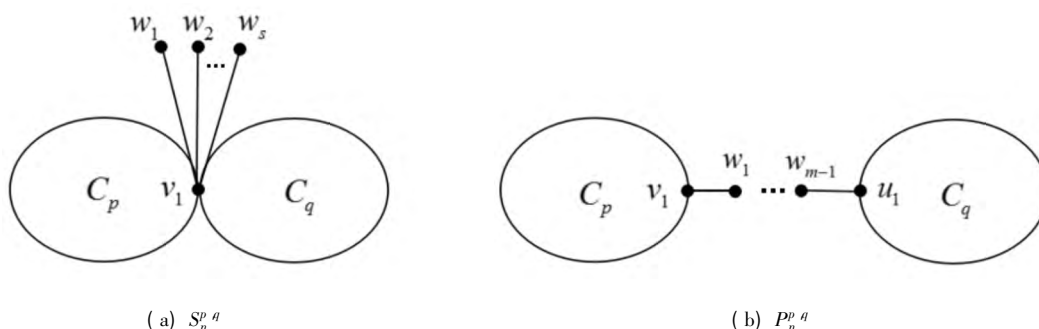


Fig.2 Graphs $S_n^{p,q}$ and $P_n^{p,q}$
图 2 图 $S_n^{p,q}$ 和 $P_n^{p,q}$

In this paper, we will study the upper bound of multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index of graphs in $\beta_n^{p,q}$ and characterize the corresponding extremal graphs.

The following lemmas that will be used in the proof of our main results.

Lemma 1^[4] Let u be a cut vertex of a connected graph G and x and y be two vertices in different components of $G - u$, then $r_G(x,y) = r_G(x,u) + r_G(u,y)$.

Lemma 2^[7,8] Let P_n, C_n and S_n be the path, the cycle and the star on n vertices respectively. Then

$$R^*(P_n) = (n-1)^2 + \frac{(n-1)(n-2)(2n-3)}{3},$$

$$R^*(C_n) = \frac{n^3 - n}{3},$$

$$R^*(S_n) = (n-1)(2n-3).$$

Lemma 3^[7,8] Let G_1 and G_2 be connected

graphs with disjoint vertex sets with m_1 and m_2 edges, respectively. Let $u_1 \in V(G_1)$ and $u_2 \in V(G_2)$. Constructing the graph G by identifying the vertices u_1 and u_2 and denote the so obtained vertex by u . Then $R^*(G) = R^*(G_1) + R^*(G_2) + 2m_2 \sum_{x \in V(G_1)} d_{G_1}(x) \cdot r_{G_1}(u,x) + 2m_1 \sum_{y \in V(G_2)} d_{G_2}(y) r_{G_2}(u,y)$.

1 Some Transformations

In this section, we will give some transformations which will decrease or increase $R^*(G)$.

Transformation 1 Let $u_1 u_2$ be a cut-edge of bicyclic graph G , C_p, C_q be the connected components of $G - u_1 u_2$, where $u_1 \in V(C_p)$ and $u_2 \in V(C_q)$.

Constructing the graph G^* from G by deleting $u_1 u_2$ and identifying the vertices u_1, u_2 , denote the so

obtained vertex by u adding an pendent edge uw .

Lemma 4 Let G, G^* be the graphs described in Transformation 1, then $R^*(G) > R^*(G^*)$.

Proof Let $|V(C_p)| = p, |V(C_q)| = q$, and $|E(C_p)| = p, |E(C_q)| = q$. Let $H = G[V(G) \setminus (V(C_q) - u_2)]$, $H^* = G[V(G^*) \setminus (V(C_q) - u)]$.

By Lemma 3, we have:

$$R^*(G) = R^*(H) + R^*(C_q) + 2q \sum_{x \in V(H)} d_H(x) r_H(u_2, x) + 2(p+1) \sum_{y \in V(C_2)} d_{C_q}(y) r_{C_q}(u_2, y).$$

$$R^*(G^*) = R^*(H^*) + R^*(C_q) + 2q \sum_{x \in V(H)} d_H(x) r_H(u, x) + 2(p+1) \sum_{y \in V(C_2)} d_{C_q}(y) r_{C_q}(u, y).$$

$$\text{Then } R^*(G) - R^*(G^*) = 2q \left[\sum_{x \in V(H)} d_H(x) r_H(u_2, x) - \sum_{x \in V(H^*)} d_{H^*}(x) r_{H^*}(u, x) \right] = 4pq > 0. \text{ Hence } R^*(G) > R^*(G^*).$$

Let β_n be the class of connected graphs on n vertices. By Transformation 1 and Lemma 4, we have the following result.

Corollary 1 Let G_0 be a graph with the smallest multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index in β_n , then all cut-edges are pendent edges.

Transformation 2 Let G be a bicyclic graph with $V(G) = \{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s\} \cup V(C_p) \cup V(C_q)$, for which v is a vertex of degree $s+1$ such that vv_1, vv_2, \dots, vv_s are pendent edges incident with v and u is the neighbor of v distinct from v_i that is on the cycle C_q . The other cycle C_p only has one common vertex w with C_q . We form a graph $G' = \sigma(G, v)$ by deleting the edges vv_1, vv_2, \dots, vv_s and adding new edges uw_1, uw_2, \dots, uw_s . We say that G' is a σ -transform of the graph G .

Lemma 5 Let G and G' be the graphs defined in Transformation 2. Then $R^*(G) > R^*(G')$.

Proof Let $T = G[\{v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s\}]$, $H = G[V(G) \setminus V(T)]$, then

$$R^*(G) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(H) - u} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x, y) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(T) - v} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u, y \in V(T) - v} d_G(x) d_G(y) r_G(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_G(x) d_G(u) r_G(x, u) +$$

$$\sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_G(v) d_G(y) r_G(v, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_G(x) d_G(v) r_G(x, v) + \sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_G(u) d_G(y) r_G(u, y) + d_G(u) d_G(v) r_G(u, v).$$

$$R^*(G') = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(H) - u} d_{G'}(x) d_{G'}(y) r_{G'}(x, y) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(T) - v} d_{G'}(x) d_{G'}(y) r_{G'}(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u, y \in V(T) - v} d_{G'}(x) d_{G'}(y) r_{G'}(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_{G'}(x) d_{G'}(u) r_{G'}(x, u) + \sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_{G'}(v) d_{G'}(y) r_{G'}(v, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_{G'}(x) d_{G'}(v) r_{G'}(x, v) + \sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_{G'}(u) d_{G'}(y) r_{G'}(u, y) + d_{G'}(u) d_{G'}(v) r_{G'}(u, v).$$

Hence we have $R^*(G) - R^*(G') = 2s \left[\sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_G(x) + d_G(u) - 1 \right]$. Note that $V(H) - u \neq \emptyset$ and $d_G(u) > 1$. So $R^*(G) > R^*(G')$.

Lemma 6 Let G_0 be a bicyclic graph G with $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s\} \cup V(C_p) \cup V(C_q)$, for which u is a vertex of degree $s+2$ in the cycle C_q of the bicyclic graph G_0 , and uv_1, uv_2, \dots, uv_s are pendent edges incident with u , and the other cycle C_p only has one common vertex w with C_q . Let graph G_1 delete the edges uv_1, uv_2, \dots, uv_s , and add new edges wv_1, wv_2, \dots, wv_s . Then $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$.

Proof Let $G = G_0[V(C_p) \cup V(C_q)]$, $H_0 = G[V(G_0) \setminus (V(G) - u)]$ and $H_1 = G[V(G_1) \setminus (V(G) - w)]$, then $H_0 \cong H_1 \cong K_{1,s}$. By Lemma 3, we have:

$$R^*(G_0) = R^*(G) + R^*(K_{1,s}) + 2s \sum_{x \in V(G)} d_G(x) r_G(u, x) + 2|E(G)| \sum_{y \in V(K_{1,s})} d_{K_{1,s}}(y) r_{K_{1,s}}(u, y).$$

$$R^*(G_1) = R^*(G) + R^*(K_{1,s}) + 2s \sum_{x \in V(G)} d_G(x) r_G(w, x) + 2|E(G)| \sum_{y \in V(K_{1,s})} d_{K_{1,s}}(y) r_{K_{1,s}}(w, y).$$

Hence we get:

$$R^*(G_0) - R^*(G_1) = 2s \left[\sum_{x \in V(G)} d_G(x) r_G(u, x) - \sum_{x \in V(G)} d_G(x) r_G(w, x) \right] = 2s \left[\sum_{x \in V(C_p)} d_G(x) r_G(u, w) + d_G(w) r_G(u, w) \right] > 0.$$

Then we have $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$.

Transformation 3 Let G be a bicyclic graph with $V(G) = \{u, v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s\} \cup V(C_p) \cup V(C_q)$, for which v is a vertex of degree $s + 1$ such that vv_1, vv_2, \dots, vv_s are pendent edges incident with v , and u is the neighbor of v distinct from v_i that is on the cycle C_q . The other cycle C_p only has one common vertex w with C_q . We form a graph $G'' = \pi(G, v)$ by deleting the edges vv_1, vv_2, \dots, vv_s and connecting v_i and all the isolated vertices into a path $vv_1v_2 \dots v_s$.

We say that G'' is a π -transform of the graph G .

Lemma 7 Let G and G'' be the graphs defined in Transformation 3. Then $R^*(G) < R^*(G'')$.

Proof Let $T = G - [v, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_s]$, $H = G[V(G) \setminus V(T)]$, $R^*(G)$ is defined in Lemma 5, then

$$R^*(G'') = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(H) - u} d_{G''}(x) d_{G''}(y) r_{G''}(x, y) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in V(T) - v} d_{G''}(x) d_{G''}(y) r_{G''}(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u, y \in V(T) - v} d_{G''}(x) d_{G''}(y) r_{G''}(x, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_{G''}(x) d_{G''}(u) r_{G''}(x, u) + \sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_{G''}(v) d_{G''}(y) r_{G''}(v, y) + \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_{G''}(x) d_{G''}(v) r_{G''}(x, v) + \sum_{y \in V(T) - v} d_{G''}(u) d_{G''}(y) r_{G''}(u, y) + d_{G''}(u) d_{G''}(v) r_{G''}(u, v).$$

Hence we have:

$$R^*(G) - R^*(G'') = - [(s^2 + 1) \sum_{x \in V(H) - u} d_G(x) +$$

$s(s - 1) d_G(u) + \frac{(s - 1)(s - 2)(2s - 3)}{3}]$. Since $V(H) - u \neq \emptyset$, therefore we have $d_G(x) > 0, d_G(u) > 1$. Then we have $R^*(G) - R^*(G'') < 0$. This completes the proof.

Lemma 8 Let G_0 be a bicyclic graph with the vertex set $V(C_p) \cup V(C_q) \cup V(P_{s+1})$, in which $V(C_p) \cap V(P_{s+1}) = \{v\}$ and $V(C_q) \cap V(P_{s+1}) = \{w\}$. For $wa \in E(P_{s+1})$, and $u \in V(C_q)$, let $G_1 = (G_0 - \{aw\}) \cup \{ua\}$, then $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$.

Proof Let H, H_0 and H_1 be the graphs as shown in Fig. 3, then we have

$$G_0 = (H - v_{s-1}) \oplus (H_0 - a), \\ G_1 = (H - v_{s-1}) \oplus (H_1 - w).$$

By Lemma 3, we have:

$$R^*(G_0) = R^*(H) + R^*(H_0) + 2(q + 1) \cdot \sum_{x \in V(H)} d_H(x) r_H(a, x) + 2(p + s - 1) \sum_{y \in V(H_0)} d_{H_0}(y) d_{H_0}(a, y). \\ R^*(G_1) = R^*(H) + R^*(H_1) + 2(q + 1) \cdot \sum_{x \in V(H)} d_H(x) r_H(w, x) + 2(p + s - 1) \sum_{y \in V(H_1)} d_{H_1}(y) d_{H_1}(w, y).$$

Hence $R^*(G_0) - R^*(G_1) = 4(p + s - 1) [q - r_{C_q}(w, u)] \geq 0$. If $q = r_{C_q}(w, u)$, then w and u coincidence, G_0 and G_1 is isomorphic. Since G_0 and G_1 is not isomorphic, therefore we get $R^*(G_0) - R^*(G_1) > 0$. This completes the proof.

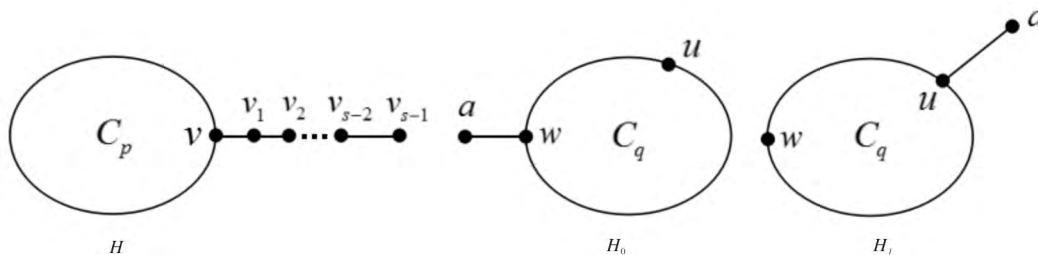


Fig. 3 Graphs H, H_0 and H_1

图 3 图 H, H_0 和 H_1

2 Main results

In this section, we will characterize n -vertex bicyclic graphs with exactly two cycles having the minimum and maximum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff

index.

Theorem 1 Let $G \in \beta_n^{p, q}, G \neq S_n^{p, q}$. Then $R^*(G) > R^*(S_n^{p, q})$.

Proof Suppose that a bicyclic graph G_0 has minimal multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index among

graphs in $\beta_n^{p,q}$. For G_0 , we prove the following results.

(1) In Fig. 1, T_{v_i}, T_{u_j} and T_{w_k} are all stars with their centers at v_i, u_j and w_k for each i, j and k .

Without loss of generality, suppose that tree T_{v_i} is not a star. Let G_1 be constructed from G_0 by deleting all the edges of T_{v_i} and connecting all the isolated vertices to v_i . By Lemma 5, we have $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$, which contradicts the choice of G_0 . Hence (1) holds.

(2) The length of the path connects the two

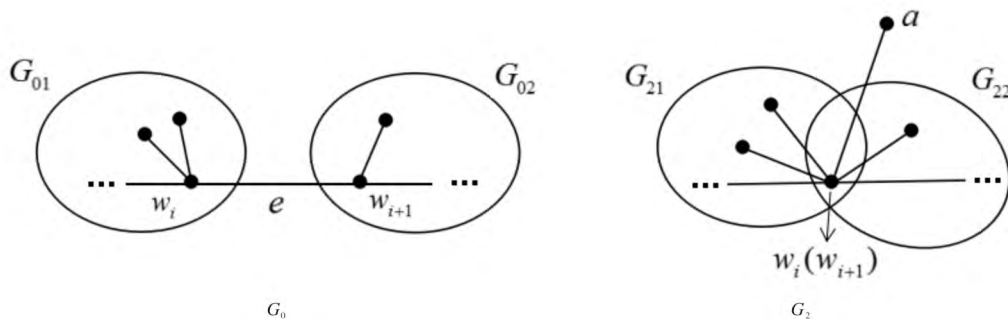


Fig. 4 Graphs G_0 and G_2

图4 图 G_0 和 G_2

By Lemma 4 and Corollary 1, we have $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_2)$. This contradicts the hypothesis. Hence (2) holds.

(3) In Fig. 1, if $p + q \leq n$, then only $T_{v_1} (T_{v_1} = T_{u_1})$ is nontrivial.

Without loss of generality, suppose to the contrary that tree $T_{u_i} (i \neq 1)$ is nontrivial. By Lemma 6, we get $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$, which contradicts the choice of G_0 . Hence (3) holds.

According to (1)–(3), we get Theorem 1.

Theorem 2 Let $G \in \beta_n^{p,q}, G \neq P_n^{p,q}$. Then $R^*(G) < R^*(P_n^{p,q})$.

Proof Suppose that a bicyclic graph G_0 has maximal multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index among graphs in $\beta_n^{p,q}$. For G_0 , we prove the following claims.

(1) In Fig. 1, T_{v_i}, T_{u_j} and T_{w_k} are all paths with their centers at v_i, u_j and w_k for each i, j and k .

Without loss of generality, suppose that tree T_{v_i} is not a path. Let G_1 be constructed from G_0 by deleting all the edges of T_{v_i} and connecting all the isolated vertices into a path. By Lemma 7, we have $R^*(G_1) > R^*(G_0)$, which contradicts the choice of G_0 . Hence (1) holds.

cycles in G_0 is zero.

Suppose that there exist the length of path is $k (k \geq 1)$ in G_0 . Assume that $v_1 = w_0, u_1 = w_k$. Let $e = w_i w_{i+1}$ be an edge of path. Let G_2 be the graph obtained from G_0 by first contracting e and then attaching a pendent edge $w_i a$ to w_i . Assume that G_{01} and G_{02} are two components of $G_0 - e$ and G_{21} and G_{22} are copies of G_{01} and G_{02} in G_2 , respectively. See Fig. 4.

(2) Assume that $T_{w_0} = T_{v_1}$ and $T_{w_m} = T_{u_1}$, then T_{w_i} is trivial $(0 \leq i \leq m)$.

If not, without loss of generality, suppose that there is nontrivial T_{w_j} . By (1), we know that T_{w_j} is a path with w_j as its end vertex and assume that u is the other end vertex. Let $G_2 = G_0 - w_j w_{j+1} + u w_{j+1}$ (if $j = m, G_2 = G_0 - w_{j-1} w_j + u w_{j-1}$). Assume that G_{01} and G_{02} are two components of $G_0 - w_j w_{j+1}$ and G_{21} and G_{22} are two components of $G_2 - u w_{j+1}$. See Fig. 5.

In the following, we prove $R^*(G_2) > R^*(G_0)$.

Let $H_0 = G_{02} + w_j w_{j+1}, H_2 = G_{22} + u w_{j+1}, r_G(w_j, u) = s$, then by Lemma 3, we get:
 $R^*(G_0) - R^*(G_2) = 2(q+1) \left[\sum_{x \in V(G_{01})} d_{G_{01}}(x) r_{G_{01}}(w_j, x) - \sum_{x \in V(G_{21})} d_{G_{21}}(x) r_{G_{21}}(u, x) \right] = -4(q+1)ps \leq 0$ (Since $p \geq 3, q \geq 3, s \geq 0$).

If $s = 0$, then G_0 and G_2 is isomorphic. Since G_0 and G_2 is non-isomorphic. Therefore we obtain $R^*(G_2) > R^*(G_0)$.

This contradicts the hypothesis. Hence (2) holds.

(3) In Fig. 1, if $p + q \leq n$, then T_{v_i} and T_{u_j} are trivial for each i and j .

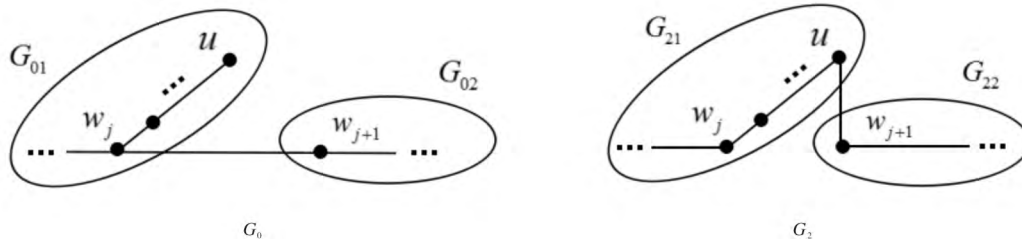


Fig. 5 Graphs G_0 and G_2

图 5 图 G_0 和 G_2

Without loss of generality, suppose to the contrary that tree $T_{v_i} (i \neq 1)$ is nontrivial. By Lemma 8, we get $R^*(G_0) > R^*(G_1)$, which contradicts the choice of G_0 . Hence (3) holds.

According to (1)-(3), we get Theorem 2.

By direct calculation, we have:

$$R^*(S_n^{p,q}) = 2n^2 + \left[\frac{2}{3}(p^2 + q^2) - 2(p + q) + \frac{5}{3}\right]n - \frac{1}{3}[(p^3 + q^3) - 2(p^2 + q^2) + 2(p + q) + 1].$$

$$R^*(P_n^{p,q}) = \frac{2}{3}n^3 + 2n^2 - \left[\frac{4}{3}(p^2 + q^2) - 1\right]n + [(p^3 + q^3) - \frac{4}{3}(p^2 + q^2) - \frac{1}{3}].$$

3 Bicyclic graphs with extremal multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index

By Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, the graphs in $\beta_n^{p,q}$ with minimum and maximum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index must belong to the classes of $S_n^{p,q}$ and $P_n^{p,q}$, respectively. In what follows, we will determine those which has the extremal multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index among in $\beta_n^{p,q}$.

Theorem 3 Among all n -vertex bicyclic graphs, the graph $S_n^{3,3}$ has the minimum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index.

$$R^*(S_n^{3,3}) = 2n^2 + \frac{5}{3}n - \frac{31}{3}, \quad n \geq 5.$$

Proof Let u_1, u_2, w be three successive vertices lying on the C_p of the bicyclic graph G_1 . The other cycle C_q only has one common vertex w with C_p . And wv_1, wv_2, \dots, wv_s are pendent edges incident with w .

Let the graph G_2 is obtained by deleting the edges

u_1u_2 and adding the edge wu_2 . Then $R^*(G_2) < R^*(G_1)$.

Let $H_1 = G[V(G_1) \setminus (V(C_q) - w)]$, $H_2 = G[V(G_2) \setminus (V(C_q) - w)]$, then

$$R^*(G_1) - R^*(G_2) = [R^*(C_p) - R^*(C_{p-1})] + [R^*(S_{s+1}) - R^*(S_{s+2})] + [2s \sum_{x \in V(C_p)} d_{C_p}(x) r_{C_p}(w, x) - 2(s+1) \sum_{x \in V(C_{p-1})} d_{C_{p-1}} r_{C_{p-1}}(w, x)] + [2p \sum_{y \in V(S_{s+1})} d_{S_{s+1}}(y) r_{S_{s+1}}(w, y) - 2(p-1) \cdot \sum_{y \in V(S_{s+2})} d_{S_{s+2}}(y) r_{S_{s+2}}(w, y)] + [2q \sum_{x \in V(H_1)} d_{H_1}(x) \cdot r_{H_1}(w, x) - 2q \sum_{x \in V(H_2)} d_{H_2}(x) r_{H_2}(w, x)] = \frac{4}{3}pq + \frac{4}{3}s(p-2) + \frac{1}{3}[(p - \frac{7}{2})^2 - \frac{69}{4}] > 0$$
 (Since $p \geq 4, q \geq 3, s \geq 0$).

Combining the above discussions, according to $R^*(S_n^{p,q})$ and $p = q = 3$, we can get the minimum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index.

$$R^*(S_n^{3,3}) = 2n^2 + \frac{5}{3}n - \frac{31}{3}, \quad n \geq 5.$$

Theorem 4 Among all n -vertex bicyclic graphs, the graph $P_n^{3,3}$ has the maximum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index.

$$R^*(P_n^{3,3}) = \frac{2}{3}n^3 + 2n^2 - 23n + \frac{89}{3}, \quad n \geq 5.$$

Proof Let u_1, w, u_2 be three successive vertices lying on the C_p of the bicyclic graph G_3 . The cycle C_p and C_q are linked with two end vertices v and w of P_{s+1} . Let the graph G_4 is obtained by deleting the edge wu_2 and adding the edge u_1u_2 . Then $R^*(G_4) > R^*(G_3)$.

$$R^*(G_3) - R^*(G_4) = [R^*(C_p) - R^*(H_4)] + 2(q + s) \left[\sum_{x \in V(C_p)} d_{C_p}(x) r_{C_p}(w, x) - \sum_{x \in V(H_4)} d_{H_4}(x) r_{H_4}(w, x) \right] = \frac{1}{3}[9p^2 - (8n + 5)p - (8n + 5)].$$

Let $h(p) = 9p^2 - (8n + 5)p - (8n + 5)$ ($p \geq 4, n \geq p + 2$), then if $h(p) = 0$, we have $p = \frac{(8n + 5) + \sqrt{64n^2 - 208n - 155}}{18}$, if $n - 2 \geq p > \frac{(8n + 5) + \sqrt{64n^2 - 208n - 155}}{18}$ the $R^*(G_3) > R^*(G_4)$; if $4 \leq p < \frac{(8n + 5) + \sqrt{64n^2 - 208n - 155}}{18}$,

then $R^*(G_3) < R^*(G_4)$. By repeated applications of the same method, when q is fixed, it is easy to see that the maximum multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index, which is $\max\{R^*(P_n^q), R^*(P_n^p)\}$. Note that:

$$R^*(P_n^q) - R^*(P_n^p) = \frac{1}{3}(p - 3)[4(p + 3)(n + 1) - (3p^2 + 3p + 9)] > 0 \text{ (Since } p \geq 4\text{)}.$$

Hence we have $R^*(P_n^q) > R^*(P_n^p)$.

Similarly, by direct calculation, we have:

$$R^*(P_n^3) = \frac{2}{3}n^3 + 2n^2 - 23n + \frac{89}{3}, n \geq 5.$$

$$R^*(P_n^3) - R^*(P_n^q) = (\frac{4}{3}q^2 - 12)n - q^3 + \frac{4}{3}q^2 + 15 > 0 \text{ (Since } q \geq 4\text{)}.$$

Hence we get $R^*(P_n^3) > R^*(P_n^q)$.

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