

On the Irregularity Characterization of Mean Graphs

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Abstract: A connected non-regular graph G with n vertices and m edges is called a mean graph, if there exists a $p \geq 2$ integer for which $p = \lfloor G \rfloor = 2m/n$ holds. The topological index $p = p(G)$ is called the centrality parameter of graph G . It is obvious that, if G is a mean graph, then its centrality parameter $p(G)$ is a uniquely defined positive integer. Mean graphs represent a particular subset of connected non-regular graphs. In this note, by presenting relevant examples, some structural irregularity properties of mean graphs are studied and characterized. Comparing the degree deviations $S(G)$ and $S(H)$ of mean graphs G and H having equal centrality parameter $p(G) = p(H)$ it is proved that if the only difference in the corresponding degree sequences of G and H is that the number of vertices of degree p is different, then $S(G) = S(H)$. The smallest mean graph is the 4-vertex unicyclic graph having a degree sequence $(3, 2, 2, 1)$. This graph is isomorphic to the 4-vertex antiregular graph A_4 , for which $S(A_4) = 2$ holds. Using comparative tests on preselected connected graphs it has been shown that the degree deviation $S(G)$ is poorly suited for discriminating among non-regular graphs.

Keywords: non-regular graphs; irregularity indices; antiregular graphs; complete split graphs; balanced bidegreed graphs; degree deviation

1 Preliminary

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a finite, simple connected graph with n vertices and m edges. For connected graph G , denote by $d(v)$ the degree of a vertex v and by $e = uv$ the edge connecting vertices u and v .

Let $\Delta = \Delta(G)$ and $\delta = \delta(G)$ be the maximum and minimum degrees, respectively, of vertices of G , where N_Δ and N_δ stand for the number of vertices of degree $\Delta = \Delta(G)$ and $\delta = \delta(G)$, respectively. The average degree of a graph G denoted by $\lfloor G \rfloor$, it is equal to $\lfloor G \rfloor = 2m/n$.

Using the standard terminology [1], a graph G is called R -regular if all its vertices have the same degree R . A connected graph is called non-regular if it contains at

least two vertices with different degrees. A non-regular graph G is said to be k -degreed, if its degree set contains exactly k different degrees. Consequently, a bidegreed graph $G(\Delta, \delta)$ is a non-regular graph whose vertices have exactly two different degrees. An $n \geq 4$ vertex bidegreed graph $G(\Delta, \delta)$ is called a balanced graph if n is an even integer for which $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$ holds. Among n -vertex connected bidegreed graphs, path P_4 with degree sequence $(2, 2, 1, 1)$ and the so-called diamond graph G_D with degree sequence $(3, 3, 2, 2)$ represent the smallest balanced bidegreed graphs.

As usual, the cyclomatic number of a connected graph with n vertices and m edges is defined as $Q=Q(G)=m-n+1$. A connected graph G having $Q(G)=k \geq 1$ cycles is said to be a k -cyclic graph. As a particular case, if $Q(G)=0$ holds the corresponding acyclic graph is called a tree graph. A tree with n vertices has exactly $n-1$ edges.

For a connected graph G with n vertices and m edges, the mean degree of G denoted by $[G]$ is defined as $[G]=2m/n$. A non-regular graph G is called a *mean graph* if there exists a positive integer p for which $p=[G]$ holds. This positive integer p is a uniquely defined graph invariant, it is said to be the centrality parameter of graph G . From the definition of mean graphs it follows that the centrality parameter is determined by the degree sequence of graphs, the value of $p(G)$ does not depend on the distances between vertices in a graph. Consequently, the definition of mean graphs is independent of the distance-based centrality concept known from classical graph theory.

A connected graph G is called a *really mean graph* if it is a mean graph and the degree set of G contains at least one vertex of degree p . In a really mean graph a vertex of degree p is called a *mean vertex*.

The number of mean vertices in a mean graph G is denoted by $N_p(G)$. A mean graph G is said to be a minimal graph if it has no mean vertices. An edge uv in a really mean graph G is called a *mean edge* if $d(u)=d(v)=p$ holds. The number of mean edges of G is denoted by $M_p(G)$.

By definition, a topological invariant $IT(G)$ of a graph G is called an irregularity index if $IT(G) \geq 0$ and $IT(G)=0$ if and only if graph G is a regular graph. The degree deviation $S(G)$ of a graph G belongs to the family of most popular graph irregularity indices. This graph invariant was introduced by Nikiforov [2], and for a connected non-regular graph G with n vertices and m edges it is defined as

$$S(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| = \sum_{i=1}^n |d_i - [G]|. \quad (1)$$

2 Some Fundamental Properties of Mean Graphs

It is obvious that every non-regular unicyclic graph G is a really mean graph with identical centrality parameter $p(G)=2$. The smallest mean graph is the 4-vertex unicyclic graph with a degree sequence $(3, 2, 2, 1)$. It is isomorphic to the 4-vertex antiregular graph A_4 , for which $S(A_4)=2$ holds.

Proposition 1 Let G be a non-regular unicyclic graph and denote by H the unicyclic graph generated by inserting into G some vertices of degree 2. Then $S(G)=S(H)$.

Proof. Because the average degree $[G]=2m/n$ of a unicyclic graph G is equal to 2, it follows that $S(G)$ and $S(H)$ are independent of the number of vertices with degree 2, consequently $S(G)=S(H)$ holds. This observation for 8 and 12 vertex unicyclic graphs U_8 and U_{12} is demonstrated in Fig. 1.

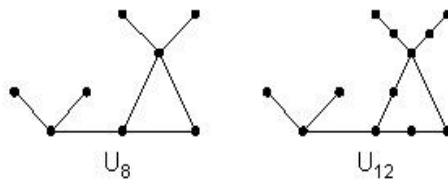


Figure 1

Four-degreed unicyclic graphs U_8 and U_{12} with centrality parameter of $p=2$

Graph U_8 with 8 vertices has a degree sequence $DDs(U_8) = (4^1, 3^2, 2^1, 1^4)$ and graph U_{12} with 12 vertices has a degree sequence $DDs(U_{12}) = (4^1, 3^2, 2^5, 1^4)$. Because the difference between degree sequences of two graphs is represented only in the different numbers of vertices of degree 2, this implies that U_8 and U_{12} have identical degree deviation $S(U_8)=S(U_{12})=8$.

Based on the above considerations the following proposition can be obtained.

Proposition 2 Let G be a mean graph having n vertices and m edges and a centrality parameter $p=p(G)$. Denote by H the graph constructed from G by inserting into G finite number vertices of degree p . Then H will be a really mean graph, consequently $p(G)=p(H)$ and $S(G)=S(H)$ hold. It follows that the number $N_p(H)$ of mean vertices of degree p in H can be arbitrarily large.

Example 1 One bidegreed and two tridegreed mean graphs are depicted in Fig. 2. These graphs have different degree sequences $DDs(Y_6) = (5^3, 3^3)$, $DDs(TY_7) = (5^3, 4^1, 3^3)$, $DDs(TY_9) = (5^3, 4^3, 3^3)$ but identical degree deviation $S(Y_6) = S(TY_7) = S(TY_9) = 6$.

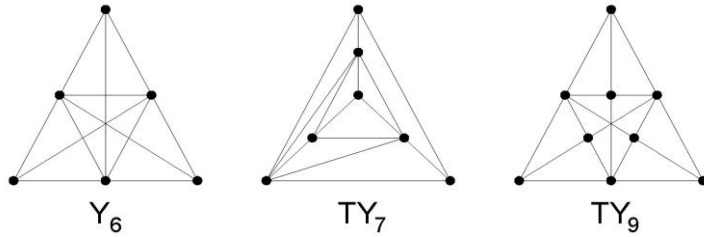


Figure 2

Graphs with identical centrality parameter $p=4$

Remark 1 For an n -vertex mean graph G consider the topological invariant defined by $n/p(G)$. It is conjectured that for a mean graph G the sharp inequality $n/p(G) \geq 3/2$ holds. For example, $n/p(Y_6)=3/2$ for graph Y_6 depicted in Fig. 2.

Proposition 3 There are no mean graphs with cyclomatic number $Q = 0, 2$ and 3 .

Proof. For an n -vertex connected graph G

$$p(G) = \frac{2(Q(G) + n - 1)}{n} = \frac{2Q(G)}{n} + 2 - \frac{2}{n} \quad (2)$$

It follows that if $Q(G) = 0, 2$ or 3 , then G cannot be a mean graph.

Proposition 4 For the centrality parameter p of a mean graph the inequality $2 \leq p \leq \Delta - 1$ holds.

Proof. As an example, consider the unicyclic graphs depicted in Fig. 3. For these mean graphs $\Delta = 3$, $\delta = 1$ and $2 = p = \Delta - 1 = 2$ holds.

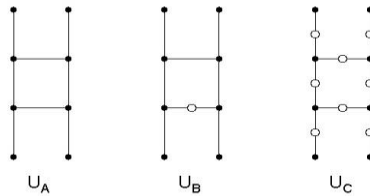


Figure 3

Tridegreed graphs U_B and U_C constructed from bidegreed unicyclic graph U_A

As can be seen, the number of mean vertices can be an arbitrary non-negative integer (i.e. $N_2 = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$).

Proposition 5 Let $j \geq 3$ be an arbitrary integer. Then there exists a bidegreed balanced mean graph F_n with $n=2j$ vertices for which $p(F_n)=3$ and $Q(F_n)=1 + n/2$ and $S(F_n)=n$ hold.

Proof. Consider the infinite sequence of n -vertex balanced bidegreed mean graphs F_n depicted in Fig. 4.

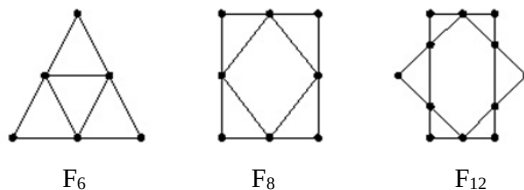


Figure 4

Bidegreed balanced mean graphs F_n having degree deviation of $S(F_n)=n$

The fundamental property of graphs F_n with $n \geq 6$ vertices is that $p(F_n)=3$, $Q(F_n)=1 + n/2$ and $S(F_n)=n$ hold for them. From bidegreed graphs F_n tridegreed really mean graphs of various type can be constructed by inserting vertices of degree 3 into F_n .

Proposition 6 Let $j \geq 3$ be an arbitrary integer. Then there exists an infinite sequence of tridegreed really mean graphs H_n with $n=2j$ vertices for which $p(H_n)=3$, $Q(H_n)=1 + n/2$ and $S(H_n)=4$ hold.

Proof. Consider the tridegreed mean graphs depicted in Fig. 5.

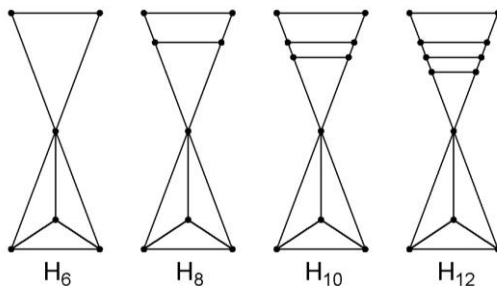


Figure 5

Tridegreed mean graphs H_n having identical degree deviation, $S=4$

Graphs H_6 , H_8 , H_{10} and H_{12} contain 3, 5, 7 and 9 mean vertices, respectively. It is easy to check that for all tridegreed graphs $p(H_n)=3$, $Q(H_n)=1 + n/2$ and $S(H_n)=4$ hold.

There exist infinitely many complete bipartite graphs belonging to the family of mean graphs. It is easy to prove the following proposition.

Proposition 7 Let $K_{\Delta, \delta}$ be a complete bipartite graph with $n = \Delta + \delta$ vertices and $m = \Delta\delta$ edges where $\delta \geq 2$ even integer and $\Delta = 3\delta$. Then $K_{\Delta, \delta}$ is a mean graph with a centrality parameter $p(K_{\Delta, \delta}) = \Delta/2 = 3\delta/2$ and $S(K_{\Delta, \delta}) = p(K_{\Delta, \delta})(\Delta - \delta) = m$.

Remark 2 The smallest complete bipartite mean graph is the graph $K_{2,6}$ with 8 vertices and 12 edges, for which $p(K_{2,6})=3$ and $S(K_{2,6})=m=12$.

3 Pseudo-Antiregular Mean Graphs

A connected n -vertex graph A_n whose degree set consists of $n-1$ elements is called an antiregular graph [3, 4, 5]. It follows that a connected antiregular graph has exactly two vertices of the same degree. These two vertices with same degree are called exceptional vertices [5].

Lemma 1 [6]: Let G be an n -vertex connected triangle-free graph. Then for every edge uv in G the inequality $d(u) + d(v) \leq n$ holds.

Lemma 2 [4, 5]: Two vertices u and v of a connected n -vertex antiregular graph A_n are adjacent if and only if $d(u) + d(v) \geq n$.

Remark 3 There exists n -vertex connected graph G for which $d(u) + d(v) \geq n$ holds for every edge uv of G , but G does not belong to the family of antiregular graphs. For example, such graphs where $d(u) + d(v) = n$ holds for every edge uv are the n -vertex stars S_n .

Proposition 8 Let A_n be an $n \geq 4$ vertex antiregular graph where n is an even integer. Then graph A_n is a mean graph and for its average degree $p = [A_n] = n/2$ holds. It follows that A_n has exactly two mean vertices (exceptional vertices) with degree $p = n/2$.

Proof. It is known that the edge number $m(A_n)$ of an n -vertex antiregular graph is $m(A_n) = \lceil n/2 \rceil \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$. It follows that if n is even integer then $p = [A_n] = n/2$ and the corresponding edge number is $m(A_n) = n^2/4$.

Remark 4 One can easily determine the degree deviation of antiregular graphs A_n with $n \geq 4$ even vertex number. It is

$$S(A_n) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{p(A_n)-1} i = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n/2-1} i \quad (3)$$

where $p(A_n) = n/2$.

Let uv be an edge of a connected n -vertex graph G . Edge uv is called a strong edge of G , if $d(u) + d(v) \geq n$, and edge uv is called a weak edge of G , if $d(u) + d(v) < n$ holds. It is easy to check that in a connected antiregular graph A_n every edge is strong.

The construction of *pseudo-antiregular mean graphs* is based on the following concept. Let A_n be a traditional n -vertex connected antiregular graph with n vertices where $n \geq 4$ is an arbitrary even integer and $p(A_n) = n/2$. Now, by inserting k novel vertices of degree $n/2$ into A_n as a result of this operation one obtains an N -vertex pseudo-antiregular mean graph $PA_N(n, k)$ with centrality parameter $p(PA_N(n, k)) = n/2$ and with vertex number $N = n + k$. As can be observed, the vertex

sequences of graphs A_n and $PA_N(n,k)$ are different, but the degree sets of both graphs are identical.

In Fig. 6 six really mean graphs with equal centrality parameter $p=3$ are depicted. Graph J_1 is isomorphic to the traditional connected 6-vertex antiregular graph A_6 . Graphs J_2 , J_3 , JA_4 , JB_4 and JC_4 are pseudo-antiregular mean graphs.

Their common properties are as follows: all of them have mean vertices and mean edges, they have identical degree sets $(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$, and for them the corresponding degree deviation is equal, namely $S=6$.

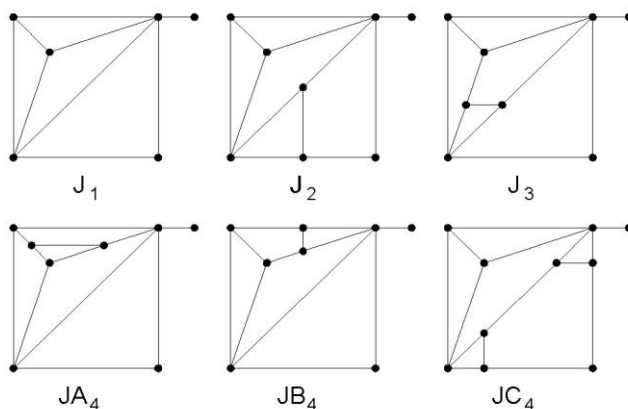


Figure 6

Non-regular graphs with the same degree set $(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$ and the same degree deviation $S=6$

Every edge of antiregular graph J_1 is a strong edge. Graphs J_2 , J_3 , JA_4 and JB_4 are 8-vertex graphs, they have 3 strong edges and 9 weak edges. Graphs J_2 and J_3 have exactly 2 and 3 mean edges, respectively. Graphs JA_4 and JB_4 are non-isomorphic graphs including 4 mean edges. Graph JC_4 with 10 vertices has also 4 mean edges, among its 15 edges every edge is a weak edge.

From the previous considerations the following proposition yields.

Proposition 9 Let n and k be integer numbers where $n \geq 4$ is even, and $k \geq 0$. Then, for appropriately selected n and k parameters there exist $(n-1)$ degreed really mean graphs with centrality parameter $p=n/2$. Such graphs are the traditional antiregular graphs A_n with even $n \geq 4$ vertex number and $k=0$, moreover the corresponding pseudo-antiregular mean graphs $PA_N(n,k)$ with vertex number $N=n+k$ where $k \geq 1$.

4 Two Conjectures

Additionally, for the structural characterization of connected mean graphs we introduce two novel graph irregularity indices formulated as

$$IRD(G) = \frac{2N_{\Delta}N_{\delta}}{N_{\Delta} + N_{\delta}}(\Delta - \delta) \quad (4)$$

$$IRR(G) = \frac{n}{2}(\Delta - \delta) \quad (5)$$

where N_{Δ} is the number of vertices of degree Δ and N_{δ} is the number of vertices of degree δ , respectively.

Let G be an arbitrary non-regular connected n -vertex and m -edge graph with maximum degree Δ and minimum degree $\delta \geq 1$. For graph G , the following conjectures are established.

Conjecture 1 It is conjectured that

$$S(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| \geq \frac{2N_{\Delta}N_{\delta}}{N_{\Delta} + N_{\delta}}(\Delta - \delta) = IRD(G) \quad (6)$$

Conjecture 2 It is conjectured that

$$S(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| \leq \frac{n}{2}(\Delta - \delta) = IRR(G) \quad (7)$$

Proposition 10 [7]: For connected bidegreed graphs $G(\Delta, \delta)$ with n vertices and m edges it has been proved that

$$S(G(\Delta, \delta)) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| = \frac{2N_{\Delta}N_{\delta}}{N_{\Delta} + N_{\delta}}(\Delta - \delta) \quad (8)$$

where $n = N_{\Delta} + N_{\delta}$.

Proposition 11 Let G be a connected bidegreed graph $G(\Delta, \delta)$ with n -vertices and m -edges. Then

$$\begin{aligned} S(G(\Delta, \delta)) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| = \frac{2N_{\Delta}N_{\delta}}{N_{\Delta} + N_{\delta}}(\Delta - \delta) = \\ &= IRD(G(\Delta, \delta)) \leq \frac{n}{2}(\Delta - \delta) = IRR(G(\Delta, \delta)) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where equality holds if G is a balanced bidegreed graph, (where $n \geq 4$ is an even integer, and $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$ holds.)

Proof. Because G is a bidegreed graph where $n = N_\Delta + N_\delta$, one obtains that

$$S(G(\Delta, \delta)) = \frac{2N_\Delta N_\delta}{N_\Delta + N_\delta} (\Delta - \delta) = \frac{2N_\Delta(n - N_\Delta)}{n} (\Delta - \delta) \quad (10)$$

Consider the monotonically increasing function defined by

$$g(N_\Delta) = \frac{2}{n} N_\Delta(n - N_\Delta) \quad (11)$$

Its maximum value with respect to N_Δ can be computed from

$$\frac{\partial g(N_\Delta)}{\partial N_\Delta} = \frac{2}{n} (n - 2N_\Delta) = 2 - \frac{4}{n} N_\Delta = 0 \quad (12)$$

As can be observed, function $g(N_\Delta)$ has a maximum value if $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$ is fulfilled.

Consequently, for n -vertex connected bidegreed graphs

$$S(G(\Delta, \delta)) \leq \frac{n}{2} (\Delta - \delta) = IRR(G(\Delta, \delta)), \quad (13)$$

and equality holds if $n \geq 4$ is an even integer and $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$.

Remark 5 If n is an odd integer, then for any n -vertex bidegreed graph $S(G) < IRR(G)$ holds. Moreover, if n is even integer, but $N_\Delta \neq N_\delta$ for a bidegreed graph G , then $IRR(G)$ will always be larger than $S(G)$. For example, if G is the 4-vertex star $K_{1,3}$ then $S(K_{1,3}) = 3 < 4 = IRR(K_{1,3})$.

Concerning the validity of Conjecture 1 and Conjecture 2, it can be shown that equality in formulas (6) and (7) is satisfied for a broad class of tridegreed mean graphs.

Proposition 12 There exist infinitely many n -vertex really mean tridegreed graphs H_n for which $S(H_n) = IRD(H_n) = 4$ holds.

Proof. The result follows from the properties of mean graphs H_n depicted in Fig. 5.

Proposition 13 As it is demonstrated in Fig. 4, if $n \geq 4$ is an even integer, then there exist infinitely many n -vertex balanced bidegreed mean graphs F_n for which $S(F_n) = IRD(F_n) = IRR(F_n) = n$ holds.

Proof. Because bidegreed graphs F_n are balanced mean graphs the result follows from Proposition 11.

Remark 6 Consider a connected graph G with n vertices and m edges. Let $A(G)$ and $L(G)$ be the corresponding adjacency and Laplacian matrices of graph G ,

respectively. Denote by λ_k ($1 \leq k \leq n$) and μ_k ($1 \leq k \leq n$) the eigenvalues of matrices $A(G)$ and $L(G)$.

Because for an n -vertex and m -edge connected graph G

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^2 = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \mu_k = 2m \quad (14)$$

holds, it follows that if G is a mean graph with centrality parameter $p(G)$, then

$$p(G) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mu_k \quad (15)$$

In Ref. [8] several non-isomorphic 10-vertex graphs with their Laplacian eigenvalues are presented. All of them are really mean and Laplacian equienergetic graphs having identical centrality parameter $p=5$. For these mean graphs the corresponding edge number is equal to $m=n^2/4=25$.

5 Additional Considerations

The discriminating power of various graph irregularity indices have been tested and compared in several publications [9-21]. We have seen that the degree deviation $S(G)$ is poorly suited for discriminating among mean graphs. Its low-level discriminating performance was demonstrated primarily on unicyclic graphs having identical centrality parameter $p=2$. This means that degree deviation measure $S(G)$ is unable to classify (order) mean graphs according to their structural irregularity.

In what follows it will be shown that the discriminatory power of $S(G)$ is poor not only for mean graphs but for balanced bidegreed graphs as well. Starting with Proposition 11, balanced bidegreed graphs are characterized by the following property:

Proposition 14 Let $G(\Delta, \delta)$ be an n -vertex and m -edge balanced bidegreed graph where $n \geq 4$ is an even integer and the equality $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$ holds. Then

$$S(G(\Delta, \delta)) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| = \frac{n}{2} (\Delta - \delta) = IRR(G(\Delta, \delta)) \quad (16)$$

Proof. Since $N_\Delta = N_\delta = n/2$, this implies that

$$2m = \Delta N_\Delta + \delta N_\delta = \frac{\Delta n}{2} + \frac{\delta n}{2} = \frac{n}{2} (\Delta + \delta) \quad (17)$$

Consequently, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} S(G(\Delta, \delta)) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left| d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right| = N_{\Delta} \left| \Delta - \frac{\Delta + \delta}{2} \right| + N_{\delta} \left| \delta - \frac{\Delta + \delta}{2} \right| \\ &= \frac{n}{2} (\Delta - \delta) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

There are infinitely many balanced bidegreed graphs characterized with the above property. Such graphs can be generated by the so-called partial edge-subdivision operation (PES transformation) performed on $R \geq 3$ regular graphs. By using PES transformation on the $R \geq 3$ regular graph G_R with n_R -vertices we can insert $n/2$ new vertices of degree $\delta=2$ into the parent graph G_R . As a result of this transformation, one obtains a balanced bidegreed graph $G(R,2)$ with vertex number $n(G(R,2))=2n_R$ and edge number $m(G(R,2))=n_R(R+2)/2$.

Example 2 The concept of PES transformation is illustrated by graphs depicted in Fig. 7. The 3-regular graph G_T is the graph of the 6-vertex trigonal prism. Balanced bidegreed graphs G_j ($j = 1, 2, 3$) constructed from G_T are 12-vertex non-isomorphic graphs containing 6 vertices of degree 3 and 6 vertices of degree 2.

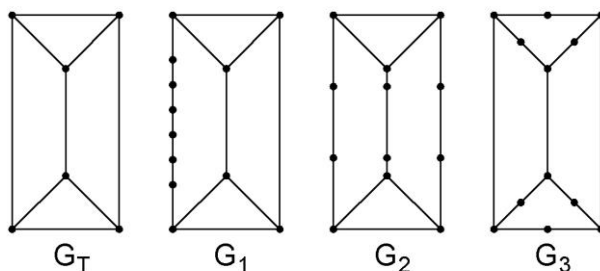


Figure 7

Balanced bidegreed graphs constructed from the 3-regular graph G_T

Non-isomorphic balanced bidegreed graphs G_j ($j = 1, 2, 3$) do not belong to the family of mean graphs, however, they have identical degree deviation given by

$$S(G_j) = \sum_{i=1}^{12} \left| d_i - \frac{5}{2} \right| = IRD(G_j) = IRR(G_j) = 6 \quad (19)$$

As can be observed, balanced bidegreed graphs depicted in Fig. 7 cannot be discriminated by irregularity indices $S(G)$, $IRD(G)$ and $IRR(G)$.

It is interesting to note that the so-called Albertson irregularity index [9] defined by

$$AL(G) = \sum_{uv \in E} |d(u) - d(v)| \quad (20)$$

seems to be more efficient for graph irregularity characterization, i.e. it possesses a better discriminatory performance. Computing the Albertson indices for graphs G_j ($j = 1, 2, 3$), we have $AL(G_1)=2$, $AL(G_2)=6$ and $AL(G_3)=12$.

Pokoradi demonstrated in [23] that the comparative evaluation of the discriminating power of irregularity indices is problematic in many cases.

For example, consider balanced graphs J_1 , JA_4 and JB_4 depicted in Fig. 6. For their irregularity indices one obtains: $S(J_1)=S(JA_4)=S(JB_4)=6$, and $AL(J_1) = AL(JA_4) = AL(JB_4) = 16$.

Denote by M_1 the first Zagreb index of a connected graph with n vertices and m edges [17, 19]. It is interesting to note that the irregularity index defined by

$$IRM_1(G) = M_1(G) - \frac{4m^2}{n} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(d_i - \frac{2m}{n} \right)^2 \quad (21)$$

has an equivalent discriminating performance with degree deviation $S(G)$ if G is a mean graph. This observation is based on the following considerations: If connected graphs G and H are mean graphs with identical centrality parameter p , and the only difference between the degree sequences of G and H is that number N_p of vertices of degree p is different, then $IRM_1(G) = IRM_1(H)$ holds.

We end our study by pointing out a recently published paper [22] containing new results on extremal graphs having maximal degree deviation. Ghalavand and Ashrafi proved [22] that among all n -vertex connected graphs the maximal degree deviation is attained for a particular set of complete split graphs. An n -vertex complete split graph denoted by $Cs(n,k)$ is a connected bidegreed graph consisting of an independent set of $n-k$ vertices and a clique of k vertices, such that each vertex of the independent set is adjacent to each vertex of the clique [24]. According to Ref. [22] the corresponding degree deviation can be calculated as

$$S(Cs(n,k)) = \frac{2k}{n}(n-k)(n-k-1). \quad (22)$$

Among n -vertex connected graphs the maximal degree deviation belongs to the complete split graphs $Cs(n,k)$ listed below, where k is defined as follows

- $k=n/3$, if n is divisible by 3,
- $k=(n-1)/3$, if $n-1$ is divisible by 3,
- $k=(n-2)/3$ if $n-2$ is divisible by 3 or
- $k=(n+1)/3$ if $n+1$ is divisible by 3.

From the previous considerations, we can conclude that among 12-vertex connected graphs the maximal degree deviation belongs to the complete split graph $Cs(n=12, k=4)$. In this case, the corresponding degree deviation is

$$S(Cs(12,4)) = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{12} (12 - 4)(12 - 4 - 1) = \frac{112}{3} = 37.333 \quad (23)$$

As can be observed, this degree deviation is considerably larger than that of balanced bidegreed graphs depicted in Fig. 7.

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