# On conjectures of network distance measures by using graph spectra

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#### Abstract

In this note we resolve three conjectures from [M. Dehmer, S. Pickl, Y. Shi, G. Yu, *New inequalities for network distance measures by using graph spectra*, Discrete Appl. Math. 252 (2019), 17–27] on the comparison of distance measures based on the graph spectra, by constructing families of counterexamples and using computer search.

**Key words**: Distance measures; Graph spectra **AMS Classifications:** 05C05.

#### 1 Introduction

Eigenvalues of various graph-theoretical matrices often reflect structure properties of graphs meaningfully [1]. In fact, studying eigenvalues of graphs and, then, characterizing those graphs based on certain properties of their eigenvalues has a long standing history, see [1]. Also, eigenvalues have been used for characterizing graphs quantitatively in terms of defining graph complexity as well similarity measures [6, 3]. An analysis revealed that eigenvalue-based graphs measures tend to be quite unique, i.e., they are able to discriminate graphs uniquely [4]. Some of the studied measures even outperformed measures from the family of the so-called Molecular ID Numbers, see [4].

In this short paper, we further investigate an approach in [3] where the authors explored inequalities for graph distance measures. Those are based on topological indices using eigenvalues of adjacency matrix, Laplacian matrix and signless Laplacian matrix. The graph distance measure is defined as

$$d_I(G, H) = d(I(G), I(H)) = 1 - e^{-\left(\frac{I(G) - I(H)}{\sigma}\right)^2},$$

where G and H are two graphs and I(G) and I(H) are topological indices applied to both G and H.

In this short note, we are going to disprove three conjectures proposed in Dehmer et al. [2], by constructing families of counterexamples and using computer search.

#### 2 Main result

Let G be a simple connected graph on n vertices. Let  $\lambda_1$  be the largest eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix of G, and  $q_1$  be the largest eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix of G.

The authors from [2] proposed the following conjectures and stated that it is likely that we need deeper results from matrix theory and from the theory of graph spectra to prove these.

**Conjecture 2.1** Let T and T' be two trees on n vertices. Then

$$d_{q_1}(T,T') \ge d_{\lambda_1}(T,T').$$

We are going to disprove the above conjecture by providing a family of counterexamples for which it holds

$$0 = d_{q_1}(T, T') < d_{\lambda_1}(T, T'),$$

or in other words  $q_1(T) = q_1(T')$  and  $\lambda_1(T) \neq \lambda_1(T')$ .

In [7], the author proved the following result: Almost all trees have a cospectral mate with respect to the Laplacian matrix.

**Theorem 2.2** Given fixed rooted graphs (G, v) and (H, v) and an arbitrary rooted graph (K, w), if (G, u) and (H, v) are Laplacian (signless Laplacian, normalized Laplacian, adjacency) cospectrally rooted then  $G \cdot K$  and  $H \cdot K$  are cospectral with respect to the Laplacian (signless Laplacian, normalized Laplacian, adjacency) matrix.

Starting from Laplacian cospectrally rooted trees shown in Figure 1 - one can construct many graphs by choosing arbitrary trees K.



Figure 1: Rooted Laplacian cospectral trees.

By direct calculation, we get that these trees are not adjacency cospectral and therefore the adjacency spectral radiuses are different (2.0684 vs 2.0743). We rerun the same simulation for trees using Nauty [5] on n = 10 vertices as discussed in [2]. Based on the computed search - the smallest counterexample is on n = 8 vertices.

n	tree pairs	Conjecture 5.1 counterexamples
4	3	0
5	6	0
6	21	0
7	66	0
8	276	2
9	1128	11
10	5671	89
11	27730	568
12	152076	3532
13	846951	21726
14	4991220	138080
15	29965411	877546
16	186640860	5725833

Degree powers, or the zeroth Randić index are defined as

$$F_k = \sum_{v \in V} deg^k(v).$$

**Conjecture 2.3** Let T and T' be two trees on n vertices. Then

$$d_{F_2}(T, T') \ge d_{q_1}(T, T')$$

We rerun the same computer simulation and found many examples of pairs for which holds

$$|F_2(T) - F_2(T')| < |q_1(T) - q_1(T')|,$$

and consequently  $d_{F_2}(T, T') < d_{q_1}(T, T')$ . In particular the smallest counterexample is on n = 6 vertices and shown in Figure 2: clearly  $F_2(T) = F_2(T') = 20$  and

$$4.214320 = q_1(T) < q_1(T') = 4.302776.$$

This disproves the above conjecture and corrects the results from [2].

n	tree pairs	Conjecture 5.2 counterexamples
4	3	0
5	6	0
6	21	1
7	66	5
8	276	28
9	1128	117
10	5671	577
11	27730	2672
12	152076	13805
13	846951	72801
14	4991220	405454
15	29965411	2312368
16	186640860	13713949

To conclude, these results disprove Conjectures 5.1 and Conjecture 5.2 from [2], while Conjecture 5.3 on relationship between  $\lambda_1$  and  $F_2$  [2] directly follows from these.



Figure 2: Two trees with  $F_2(T) = F_2(T')$  and  $q_1(T) \neq q_1(T')$ .

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