

## EQUIENERGETIC COMPLEMENT GRAPHS

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ABSTRACT. The energy of a graph  $G$  is the sum of the absolute values of its eigenvalues. Two graphs are said to be equienergetic if their energies are equal. In this paper we show that if  $G$  is a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ , then  $E(L^2(G)) = (nr - 4)(2r - 3) - 2$ . This leads to the construction of infinitely many equienergetic graphs, which are of the same order and noncospectral.

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of graph energy was introduced by one of the present authors [8], motivated by results obtained by applying graph spectral theory to molecular orbital theory [7,14]. For recent mathematical work on the energy of a graph see [1,9,12,819-23,26,29-33] whereas for recent chemical studies see [2,3,5,6,10,11,13,15-17,27,28].

Let  $G$  be an undirected graph without loops and multiple edges on  $n$  vertices. The eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix of  $G$  are said to be the eigenvalues of  $G$  and they are denoted by  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  and are labeled so that  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$ . These eigenvalues form the spectrum of  $G$  [4]. Two graphs are said to be cospectral if they have the same spectra.

The energy of a graph  $G$  is defined as [8],  $E(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda_i|$ . Two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are said to be equienergetic if  $E(G_1) = E(G_2)$ . Cospectral graphs are equienergetic. If  $O_k$  is the  $k$ -vertex graph without edges and  $G$  any graph, then  $G$  and  $G \cup O_k$  are equienergetic. These two trivial cases of equienergeticity are, of course, of no interest. Quite recently classes of non-cospectral equienergetic graphs were designed [1,3,23,26], among which also pairs of equienergetic chemical trees [3]. In this paper we point out further classes of equienergetic graphs.

Let  $G$  be a graph and  $L^1(G) = L(G)$  be its line graph [18]. Further, let  $L^k(G) = L(L^{k-1}(G))$ ,  $k \geq 2$ , be the iterated line graphs of  $G$ . A graph  $G$  is said to be regular of degree  $r$  if all its vertices have same degree, equal to  $r$ . If  $G$  is a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r$ , then  $L(G)$  is a regular graph on

$$n_1 = nr/2 \quad (1)$$

vertices and of degree

$$r_1 = 2r - 2. \quad (2)$$

Consequently all iterated line graphs  $L^k(G)$  of a regular graph  $G$  are regular [18]. In particular, if  $G$  is a regular graph on  $n$  vertices, of degree  $r$  then by Eqs. (1) and (2),  $L^2(G)$  is a regular graph on  $n_2 = n_1 r_1/2 = nr(r-1)/2$  vertices and of degree  $r_2 = 2r_1 - 2 = 4r - 6$ . For more details on line graphs see elsewhere [18].

**Theorem 1** [4]. If  $G$  is a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r$ , then its largest eigenvalue is  $\lambda_1 = r$ .

**Theorem 2** [25]. If  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  are the eigenvalues of a regular graph  $G$  on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r$ , then the eigenvalues of  $L(G)$  are  $\lambda_i + r - 2$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and  $-2$ ,  $n(r-2)/2$  times.

**Theorem 3** [24]. If  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  are the eigenvalues of a regular graph  $G$  of order  $n$  and of degree  $r$ , then the eigenvalues of  $\overline{G}$ , the complement of  $G$ , are  $n - r - 1$  and  $-\lambda_i - 1$ ,  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ .

**Theorem 4** [23]. If  $G$  is a regular graph of order  $n$  and of degree  $r \geq 3$ , then

$$E(L^2(G)) = 2nr(r - 2). \quad (3)$$

**Corollary 5** [23]. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two regular graphs, both on  $n$  vertices, both of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Then for any  $k \geq 2$ ,  $L^k(G_1)$  and  $L^k(G_2)$  are equienergetic.

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**Theorem 6.** If  $G$  is a regular graph of order  $n$  and of degree  $r \geq 3$ , then

$$E(\overline{L^2(G)}) = (nr - 4)(2r - 3) - 2. \quad (4)$$

**Proof.** Let  $G$  be a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Let its eigenvalues be  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ . Then by Theorem 2, the eigenvalues of  $L(G)$  are

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lambda_i + r - 2, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ \text{and} \quad -2, \quad n(r - 2)/2 \text{ times} \end{array} \right\} \quad (5)$$

In view of that fact that  $L(G)$  is a regular graph on  $nr/2$  vertices and of degree  $2r - 2$ , from Eqs. (5) the eigenvalues of  $L^2(G)$  are

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll} \lambda_i + 3r - 6, & i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ 2r - 6, & n(r-2)/2 \text{ times} \\ \text{and } -2, & nr(r-2)/2 \text{ times} \end{array} \right\} \quad (6)$$

Because  $L^2(G)$  is a regular graph on  $nr(r-1)/2$  vertices and of degree  $4r-6$ , from Theorem 3 and Eqs. (6), the eigenvalues of  $\overline{L^2(G)}$  are

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll} -\lambda_i - 3r + 5, & i = 2, 3, \dots, n \\ -2r + 5, & n(r-2)/2 \text{ times} \\ 1, & nr(r-2)/2 \text{ times} \\ \text{and } (nr(r-1)/2) - 4r + 5 \end{array} \right\} \quad (7)$$

If  $d_{\max}$  is the greatest vertex degree of a graph, then all its eigenvalues belong to the interval  $[-d_{\max}, d_{\max}]$  [4]. In particular the eigenvalues of a regular graph of degree  $r$ , satisfy the condition  $-r \leq \lambda_i \leq r$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . If  $r \geq 3$  then  $\lambda_i + 3r - 5 > 0$ ,  $2r - 5 > 0$  and  $(nr(r-1)/2) - 4r + 5 > 0$ . Therefore the energy of  $\overline{L^2(G)}$  is computed from (7) as

$$\begin{aligned} E(\overline{L^2(G)}) &= \sum_{i=2}^n |-\lambda_i - 3r + 5| + |-2r + 5| \frac{n(r-2)}{2} + |1| \frac{nr(r-2)}{2} \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{nr(r-1)}{2} - 4r + 5 \right| \\ &= \sum_{i=2}^n \lambda_i + (3r-5)(n-1) + (2r-5) \frac{n(r-2)}{2} + \frac{nr(r-2)}{2} + \frac{nr(r-1)}{2} - 4r + 5 \\ &= (nr-4)(2r-3) - 2, \quad \text{since } \sum_{i=2}^n \lambda_i = -r. \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 7.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two regular graphs on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Then  $\overline{L^2(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^2(G_2)}$  are equienergetic.

**Proof.** Corollary 7 directly follows from Eq. (4).

**Corollary 8.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two regular graphs on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Then for any  $k \geq 2$ ,  $E(\overline{L^k(G_1)}) = E(\overline{L^k(G_2)})$ .

**Proof.** By repeated application of Eqs. (1) and (2), the graphs  $L^{k-2}(G_1)$  and  $L^{k-2}(G_2)$  have same number of vertices. Because  $L^{k-2}(G_1)$  and  $L^{k-2}(G_2)$  are regular graphs of same degree, with equal number of vertices, by Corollary 7,  $\overline{L^k(G_1)} = \overline{L^2(L^{k-2}(G_1))}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)} = \overline{L^2(L^{k-2}(G_2))}$  are equienergetic.

**Corollary 9.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two non-cospectral regular graphs on  $n$  vertices, of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Then for any  $k \geq 2$ , both  $\overline{L^k(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)}$  are regular, non-cospectral, possessing same number of vertices, same number of edges and equienergetic.

**Proof.** All iterated line graphs  $L^k(G)$  of regular graphs are regular and the complement of a regular graph is also regular. Therefore  $\overline{L^k(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)}$  are regular graphs. From Eqs. (5), (6), and (7), if  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are not cospectral then  $\overline{L^k(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)}$  are not cospectral, for any  $k \geq 1$ . By repeated application of Eqs. (1) and (2), we conclude that  $\overline{L^k(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)}$  possess equal number of vertices and from Corollary 8, that  $\overline{L^k(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{L^k(G_2)}$  are equienergetic.

From Eqs. (3) and (4), we arrive at the following:

**Corollary 10.** If  $G$  is a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ , then  $E(L^2(G)) = E(\overline{L^2(G)}) - r(n-8) - 10$ .

**Corollary 11.** Let  $G$  be a regular graph on  $n$  vertices and of degree  $r \geq 3$ . Then  $E(L^2(G)) = E(\overline{L^2(G)})$  if and only if  $G = K_6$ .

**Proof.** If  $G = K_6$ , then  $G$  is a regular graph on 6 vertices and of degree 5. Then from (3) and (4),  $E(L^2(G)) = E(\overline{L^2(G)}) = 180$ .

Conversely, assume that  $E(L^2(G)) = E(\overline{L^2(G)})$

Then  $r(n-8) + 10 = 0$ . Bearing in mind that  $r \geq 3$ , the latter condition is satisfied for  $n = 7$ ,  $r = 10$  and  $n = 6$ ,  $r = 5$ . There is no graph with  $n = 7$  and  $r = 10$ . Hence the case that remains is  $n = 6$  and  $r = 5$ , which is  $K_6$ .

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