

Note di Matematica  
*Note Mat.* **33** (2013) no. 2, 107–121.

ISSN 1123-2536, e-ISSN 1590-0932  
doi:10.1285/i15900932v33n2p107

# Extremal Tri-Cyclic Graphs with respect to the First and Second Zagreb Indices

**Tayebeh Dehghan-Zadeh**

*Department of Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematical Science,  
University of Kashan, Kashan 87317-51167, I. R. Iran*  
ta.dehghanzadeh@gmail.com

**Hongbo Hua**

*Department of Mathematics, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, P. R. China  
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Huaiyin Institute of Technology, Huaian, Jiangsu  
223003, P. R. China*  
hongbo.hua@gmail.com

**Ali Reza Ashrafi**

*Department of Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematical Science,  
University of Kashan, Kashan 87317-51167, I. R. Iran*  
ashrafi@kashanu.ac.ir

**Nader Habibi**

*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science,  
University of Zanjan, Zanjan, I. R. Iran*  
nader.habibi@ymail.com

Received: 19.7.2013; accepted: 23.8.2013.

**Abstract.** In this paper, the first and second maximum values of the first and second Zagreb indices of  $n$ -vertex tri-cyclic graphs are obtained.

**Keywords:** First Zagreb index, second Zagreb index, tri-cyclic graph.

**MSC 2010 classification:** primary 05C07, secondary 05C35

## 1 Introduction

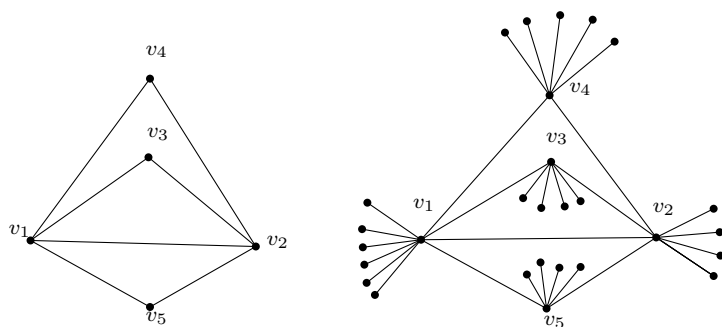
Let  $G$  be a simple graph with vertex set  $V(G)$  and edge set  $E(G)$ . The first and second Zagreb indices of  $G$  are defined as  $M_1(G) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} d^2(v)$  and  $M_2(G) = \sum_{e=uv \in E(G)} d(u)d(v)$ , respectively, where  $d(u)$  is the vertex degree of  $u$  [8]. During the last decades, a lot of work was done on this topic. For more results concerning Zagreb group indices see [1, 2, 3, 10, 14]. In [7], a history of these graph parameters as well as their mathematical properties are presented.

If  $G$  is a connected graph having  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges, then  $c = m - n + 1$  is called the cyclomatic number of  $G$  and conventionally,  $G$  is said to be cyclic

if  $c > 0$ . In particular, if  $c = 1, 2, 3$  then we call  $G$  to be uni-cyclic, bi-cyclic and tri-cyclic graph, respectively. In some research papers [12, 16], the extremal properties of these graph invariants on the set of all bicyclic graphs with a fixed number of pendant vertices and bicyclic graphs with a given matching number are investigated. Finally, in [13, 15], some extremal graphs for Zagreb indices were obtained in the classes of all quasi-tree graphs and polyominochains. We encourage the interested reader to consult [4, 5, 6, 9, 17, 18, 19] and references therein for more information on this topic.

The aim of this paper is to determine the first and second maximum values of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  in the class of all *tri-cyclic* graphs with  $n \geq 6$  vertices. To do this, we introduce the following notations:

- (1) A simple graph  $G$  with  $V(G) = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  and  $E(G) = \{v_1v_i, v_2v_j | 2 \leq i \leq 5, 3 \leq j \leq 5\}$  is denoted by  $q^{3,3,3}$ . Figure 1(a).
- (2) The  $q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  is resulting graph from  $q^{3,3,3}$  by adding  $n_i - 1$  pendant vertices to vertex  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 5$  such that  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq n_3 \geq n_4 \geq n_5$  and  $n_i \geq 1$ , see Figure 1(b).



(a) The  $q^{3,3,3}$  graph. (b) The  $q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  graph.

Figure 1. **a)** The  $q^{3,3,3}$  graph. **b)** The  $q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  graph.

- (3) Consider the cycle graph  $C_5$  with  $V(C_5) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$ . Connect  $v_1$  to vertices  $v_2$  and  $v_3$ . This graph is denoted by  $g_5$ . We now add  $n_i - 1$  pendant vertices to vertex  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ , such that  $n_i \geq 1$ ,  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq n_3 \geq n_4 \geq n_5$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^5 n_i = n$ . The resulting graph is denoted by  $g_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ , Figure 2. We denote the set of all such graphs by  $\mathfrak{g}_n$ .
- (4) The  $K_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$  is a graph obtained from  $K_4$  by adding  $n_i - 1$

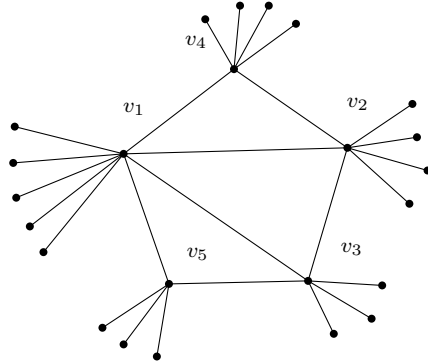


Figure 2. The  $g_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  graph.

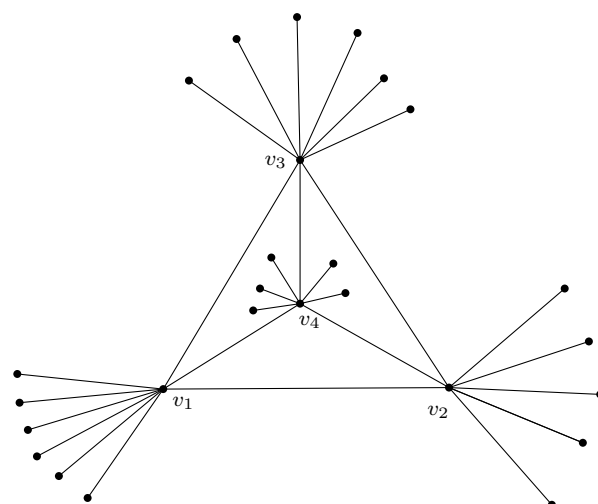
pendant vertices to vertex  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 4$ , such that  $n_i \geq 1$  and  $n_1 = \max\{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4\}$ , Figure 3.

- (5) The graph  $E$  is constructed from  $K_4 - e$  and  $K_3$  by identifying one vertex of degree three in  $K_4 - e$  and one vertex of  $K_3$ . We label the graph  $E$  as Figure 4. Also, we assume that  $E_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$  is the graph formed from  $E$  by attaching  $n_i - 1$  pendant vertices to the vertex  $v_i$ , where  $n_i \geq 1$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ ,  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq n_3 \geq n_4 \geq n_5 \geq n_6$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^6 n_i = n$ .
- (6) Let  $F$  be the resulting graph from  $K_4 - e$  and  $K_3$  by identifying one vertex of degree two in each graph. Label the vertices of  $F$  as in Figure 5(a). Also, we assume that  $F_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$  is the graph formed  $F$  by attaching  $n_i - 1$  pendant vertices to  $v_i$ , where  $n_i \geq 1$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ ,  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq n_3 \geq n_4 \geq n_5 \geq n_6$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^6 n_i = n$ , Fig. 5(b).

A graph  $G$  is called a cactus graph if blocks of  $G$  are either edges or cycles. The set of cacti of order  $n$  with  $k$  pendant vertices is denoted by  $G_{n,k}$ . The graphs with the largest values of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  in the class of  $G_{n,k}$ , are determined by Li et al. [11]. For the sake of completeness we mention here the main result of this paper.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $G$  be a graph in  $G_{n,k}$ . Then the following statements are satisfied:*

- (i). *If  $n - k \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_2(G) \leq 2n^2 - (k + 2)n - k$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong C^1(n, k)$ , where  $C^1(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 6(a).*
- (ii). *If  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_2(G) \leq 2n^2 - (k + 5)n + 4$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong C^2(n, k)$ , where  $C^2(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 6(b).*

Figure 3. The  $K_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$  graph.

- (iii). If  $n - k \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 + 2n - 3k - 3$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong C^1(n, k)$ , where  $C^1(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig.6(a).
- (iv). If  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - 3k$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong C^2(n, k)$  or  $C^3(n, k)$ , where  $C^2(n, k)$  and  $C^3(n, k)$  are depicted in Fig. 6.

Throughout this paper  $K_n$ ,  $C_n$  and  $P_n$  denote the complete, cycle and path graphs on  $n$  vertices, respectively. The set of neighbors of a vertex  $v$  in a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $N_G(v)$ .  $R_n$  is the set of all tri-cyclic graphs with  $n$  vertices and its subset containing tri-cyclic graphs with  $p$  pendant vertices is denoted by  $R_{n,p}$ . Our other notations are standard and taken from the standard book on graph theory.

## 2 Main Results

In this section, the tri-cyclic  $n$ -vertex graphs,  $n \geq 5$ , with the first and second Zagreb indices are determined. Suppose that  $G$  is a simple  $n$ -vertex tri-cyclic graph containing  $p \geq 0$  pendant vertices. Choose a non-pendant edge

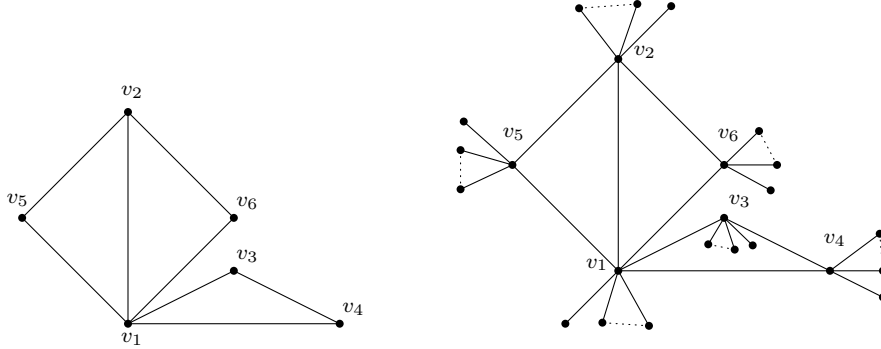


Figure 4.  $E_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$ .

$e = uv$  that does not belong to a cycle of length 3. Suppose  $A$  is a graph constructed from  $G$  by contraction and then deleting the edge  $e = uv$ , and  $H$  is another graph constructed from  $A$  by adding a new vertex to  $H$  and connecting it to the contracted vertices  $u$  and  $v$ . The resulting graph  $G'$  is a simple tri-cyclic  $n$ -vertex graph containing  $p + 1$  pendant vertices.

It should be noted that this procedure is decreasing the length of at least one cycle. In what follows, we prove that  $M_1(G) < M_1(G')$  and  $M_2(G) < M_2(G')$ . To prove the statement, we assume that  $d(u) = s \geq 2$ ,  $d(v) = r \geq 2$ ,  $N_G(u) - \{v\} = \{x_1, \dots, x_{s-1}\}$  and  $N_G(v) - \{u\} = \{y_1, \dots, y_{r-1}\}$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G) - M_1(G') &= r^2 + s^2 - (r + s - 1)^2 - 1 \\ &= -2rs - 2 + 2r + 2s < 0, \end{aligned}$$

and so  $M_1(G) < M_1(G')$ . On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G) - M_2(G') &= \sum_{i=1}^{s-1} sd(x_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} rd(y_i) \\ &+ rs - \left( \sum_{i=1}^{s-1} (r + s - 1)d(x_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} (r + s - 1)d(y_i) + (r + s - 1) \right) \\ &= - \sum_{i=1}^{s-1} (r - 1)d(x_i) - \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} (s - 1)d(y_i) \\ &- (r + s - 1) + rs < 0. \end{aligned}$$

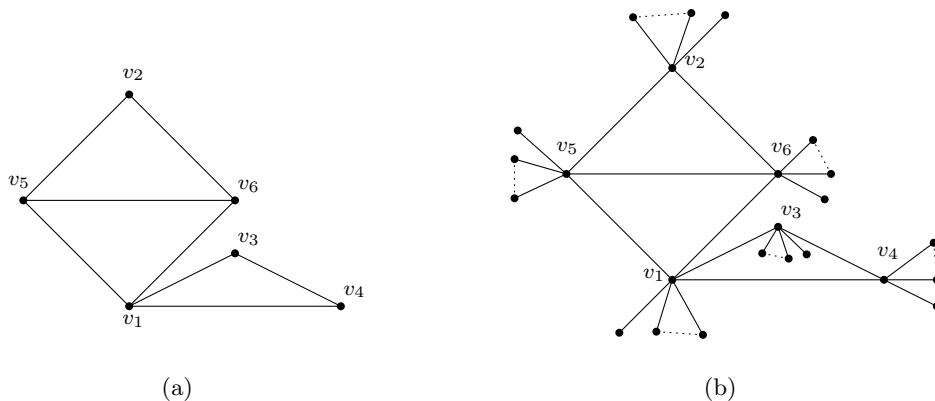


Figure 5.  $F_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$

Therefore, we conclude that if the number of non-pendant vertices decreases then the first and second Zagreb indices of the graph under consideration will increase. This implies that the maximum of Zagreb indices among all tri-cyclic graphs will be occurred in graphs with a few number of non-pendant vertices. Therefore, the maximum of Zagreb indices will occur when each chordless cycle has length 3. The set of all tri-cyclic cactus graphs is denoted by  $\Lambda$ . We have following simple and useful Lemma:

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $G$  be a graph in  $\Lambda$ .*

(i). *If  $n - k \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - n + 18$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong B^1(n, k)$ , where  $B^1(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 7(a).*

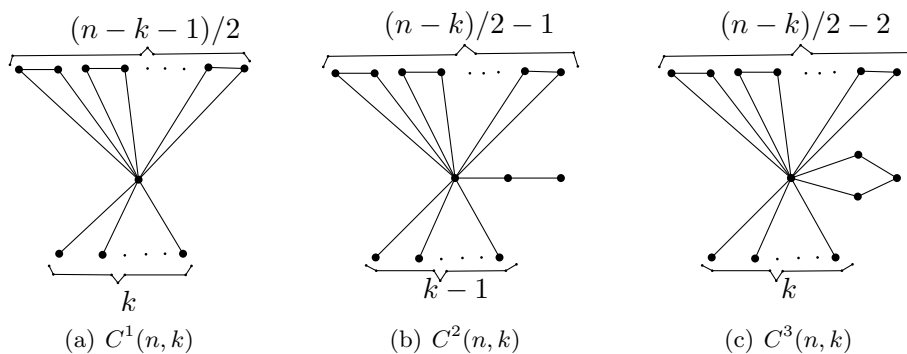


Figure 6. The graphs  $C^1(n, k)$ ,  $C^2(n, k)$  and  $C^3(n, k)$ .

- (ii). If  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - 3n + 24$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong B^2(n, k)$  where  $B^2(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 7(b).
- (iii). If  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - 3n + 24$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong B^3(n, k)$  where  $B^3(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 7(c).
- (iv). If  $n - k \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_2(G) \leq n^2 + 4n + 7$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong B^1(n, k)$ , where  $B^1(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 7(a).
- (v). If  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then  $M_2(G) \leq n^2 + 3n + 4$ , with equality if and only if  $G \cong B^2(n, k)$ , where  $B^2(n, k)$  is depicted in Fig. 7(b).

*Proof.* We can demonstrate the proof by putting  $k = n - 7$  and  $n - 8$  in Lemma 1. ◻

**Lemma 3.** If  $G = K_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$  with  $n_i \geq n_j \geq 2$ ,  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq 4$  and  $b$  is a pendant vertex of  $v_j$ . Then

$$M_1(G - v_j b + v_i b) > M_1(G) \quad \text{and} \quad M_2(G - v_j b + v_i b) > M_2(G).$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $i = 1$  and  $j = 2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G - v_2 b + v_1 b) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + (n_1 + 3)^2 + (n_2 - 2) + (n_2 + 1)^2 \\ &\quad - (n_1 - 1) - (n_1 + 2)^2 - (n_2 - 1) - (n_2 + 2)^2 \\ &= 2n_1 - 2n_2 + 2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also, we have :

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G - v_2 b + v_1 b) - M_2(G) &= [n_1(n_1 + 3) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 - 2)(n_2 + 1) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 2)] \end{aligned}$$

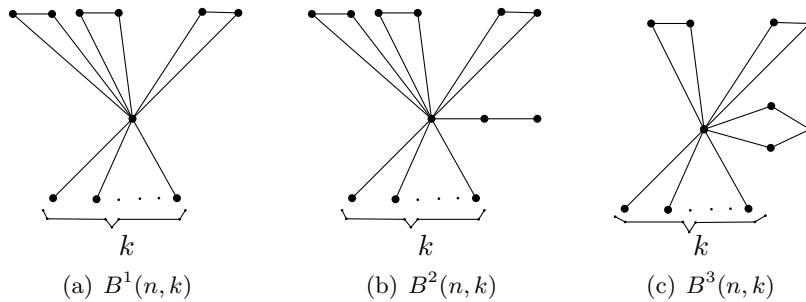


Figure 7. The graphs  $B^1(n, k)$ ,  $B^2(n, k)$  and  $B^3(n, k)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& +[(n_2 + 1)(n_1 + 3) - (n_1 + 2)(n_2 + 2)] \\
& = n_1 - n_2 + 1 > 0,
\end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $G = K_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)$ , where  $n_1, n_2 \geq 2$ . Then*

- a)  $M_1(G) \leq M_1(K_n(n - 3, 1, 1, 1))$  ,
- b)  $M_2(G) \leq M_2(K_n(n - 3, 1, 1, 1))$  .

*Proof.* Without loss of generality let  $n_1 \geq \dots \geq n_4$ . By Lemma 3 and putting  $n_3 = n_4 = 1$ , one can see that with deletion of any pendant edge from the vertex  $v_2$  and adding it to vertex  $v_1$ , the first and second Zagreb indices will be increased. Therefore, applying Lemma 3,  $n_2 + n_3 + n_4 - 3$  times in a row we find  $M_i(K_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4)) \leq M_i(K_n(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4 - 3, 1, 1, 1))$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Suppose  $G \in R_{n, n-4}$  with  $n \geq 4$ . Then*

- a)  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - n + 24$ ,
- b)  $M_2(G) \leq n^2 + 4n + 22$ .

*The equalities hold if and only if  $G \cong K_n(n - 3, 1, 1, 1)$ .*

*Proof.* **a)** Suppose  $G \in R_{n, n-4}$  has maximum of first Zagreb index. By Lemma 3, one can find another graph  $H$  in  $R_n$  such that  $M_1(H) > M_1(G)$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $G = K_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1)$ . Then by Lemma 4,  $G = K_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1)$ . Equality holds if and only if  $G \cong K_n(n - 3, 1, 1, 1)$ . The proof of **b)** is similar.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $G = q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ ,  $n_i \geq 2$ . Then*

- 1)  $M_1(G) < M_1(q_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 2)  $M_2(G) < M_2(q_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 3)  $M_1(G) < M_1(q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3 + 1, n_4 - 1, n_5))$ ,
- 4)  $M_2(G) < M_2(q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3 + 1, n_4 - 1, n_5))$ ,
- 5)  $M_1(G) < M_1(q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3 + 1, n_4, n_5 - 1))$ ,
- 6)  $M_2(G) < M_2(q_n(n_1, n_2, n_3 + 1, n_4, n_5 - 1))$ ,
- 7)  $M_1(G) < M_1(q_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 8)  $M_2(G) < M_2(q_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5))$ .



*Proof.* Suppose  $G_1 = q_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_1) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + (n_1 + 4)^2 + (n_2 + 2)^2 + (n_2 - 2) - (n_1 - 1) \\ &\quad - (n_1 + 3)^2 - (n_2 + 3)^2 - (n_2 - 1) \\ &= 2n_1 - 2n_2 + 2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_1) - M_2(G) &= [n_1(n_1 + 4) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 - 2)(n_2 + 2) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 2)(n_1 + 4) - (n_2 + 3)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &= n_1 - n_2 + 1 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Other cases are similar and so they are omitted.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $G = q_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1)$  with  $n_1, n_2 \geq 2$ . Then*

a)  $M_1(G) < M_1(q_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1))$ ,

b)  $M_2(G) < M_2(q_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1))$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $G_1 = q_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ , where  $n_1, n_2 \geq 2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_1) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + n_2 - 2 + (n_1 + n_2 + 2)^2 + 28 \\ &\quad - (n_1 - 1) - (n_2 - 1) - (n_1 + 3)^2 - (n_2 + 3)^2 - 12 \\ &= 2n_1n_2 + 2 - 2n_1 - 2n_2 > 0, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of part (a). To prove (b), we notice that

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_1) - M_2(G) &= (n_1 + n_2 - 2)(n_1 + n_2 + 2) + 6(n_1 + n_2 + 2) + 24 \\ &\quad + 4(n_2 + n_1 + 2) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 3) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 3) \\ &\quad - 6(n_2 + 3) - 6(n_1 + 3) + (n_2 + 3)(n_1 + 3) \\ &= n_1n_2 + 1 - n_1 - n_2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the result follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** Suppose  $G = g_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ , where  $n_i \geq 2$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ . Then we have:

- 1)  $M_1(G) < M_1(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 2)  $M_2(G) < M_2(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 3)  $M_1(G) < M_1(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 4)  $M_2(G) < M_2(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5))$ ,
- 5)  $M_1(G) < M_1(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5))$ ,
- 6)  $M_2(G) < M_2(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5))$ ,
- 7)  $M_1(G) < M_1(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1))$ ,
- 8)  $M_2(G) < M_2(g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1))$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $G_1 = g_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_1) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + (n_1 + 4)^2 + (n_2 - 2) + (n_2 + 1)^2 \\ &\quad - (n_1 - 1) - (n_1 + 3)^2 - (n_2 + 2)^2 - (n_2 - 1) \\ &= 2n_1 + 4 - 2n_2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of part (1). To prove (2), we notice that

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_1) - M_2(G) &= [n_1(n_1 + 4) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 - 2)(n_2 + 1) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_1 + 4) - (n_2 + 2)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 4)(n_4 + 1) - (n_1 + 3)(n_4 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_5 + 1)(n_1 + 4) - (n_5 + 1)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 4)(n_3 + 2) - (n_1 + 3)(n_3 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_3 + 2) - (n_2 + 2)(n_3 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_5 + 1) - (n_2 + 2)(n_5 + 1)] \\ &= n_1 + n_2 + 2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Other cases are similar.  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** Suppose  $G = g_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1)$ , where  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq 2$ . Then  $M_1(G) < M_1(g_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1))$ ,  $M_2(G) < M_2(g_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1))$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 7 and putting  $n_3 = n_4 = n_5 = 1$ , one can see that by removing any pendant edge from vertex  $v_2$  and adding it to the vertex  $v_1$ , the first Zagreb index will increase. Therefore,

$$M_1(g_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1)) < M_1(g_n((n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1)))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &< \dots \\
 &< M_1(g_n(n_1 + n_2 - 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)) \\
 &< M_1(g_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

The second part is similar and so omitted. □ QED

**Theorem 2.** *Suppose  $G \in \mathfrak{g}_n$  where  $n \geq 5$ . Then*

$$M_1(G) \leq n^2 - n + 22, \quad M_2(G) \leq n^2 + 4n + 16.$$

*The equality holds if and only if  $G \cong g_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $H = g_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5) \in \mathfrak{g}_n$  has maximum of the first Zagreb index. By Lemma 7 one can find another graph in  $R_n$  with greater first Zagreb index. Suppose  $G = g_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1)$ . Then by Lemma 8, we get  $M_1(G) \leq M_1(g_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1))$ . Equality holds if and only if  $G \cong g_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ . The proof of the second part is similar. □ QED

Consider the complete graph  $K_4$  with vertex set  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ . Insert a vertex  $v_5$  into an edge of  $K_4$  and name the resulting graph  $Y_5$ . Define the graph  $Y_5(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  to be constructed from  $Y_5$  by attaching  $n_i$  edges to the vertex  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 5$ . It is not so difficult to prove that  $Y_5(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$  is tri-cyclic such that its Zagreb indices are less than  $g_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5)$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Suppose  $G \in R_{n,n-5}$  and  $n \geq 5$ . Then*

- a)  $M_1(G) \leq n^2 - n + 24,$
- b)  $M_2(G) \leq n^2 + 4n + 19.$

*The equality is satisfied if and only if  $G \cong q_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 6 and Theorem 2, the maximum of the first and second Zagreb indices are occurred in  $q_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$  and  $g_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ , respectively. So,

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_1(g_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)) &< M_1(q_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)), \\
 M_2(g_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)) &< M_2(q_n(n - 4, 1, 1, 1, 1)),
 \end{aligned}$$

which completes our argument. □ QED

**Lemma 9.** Suppose  $G = E_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$ , where  $n_i \geq 2$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ . Then

- 1)  $M_1(G) < M_1(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 2)  $M_2(G) < M_2(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 3)  $M_1(G) < M_1(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 4)  $M_2(G) < M_2(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 5)  $M_1(G) < M_1(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 6)  $M_2(G) < M_2(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5, n_6))$ .
- 7)  $M_1(G) < M_1(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1, n_6))$ ,
- 8)  $M_2(G) < M_2(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1, n_6))$ ,
- 9)  $M_1(G) < M_1(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6 - 1))$ ,
- 10)  $M_2(G) < M_2(E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6 - 1))$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $G_1 = E_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_1) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + (n_1 + 5)^2 + (n_2 - 2) + (n_2 + 1)^2 \\ &\quad - (n_1 - 1) - (n_1 + 4)^2 - (n_2 + 2)^2 - (n_2 - 1) \\ &= 2n_1 - 2n_2 + 6 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_1) - M_2(G) &= [n_1(n_1 + 5) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 4)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 - 2)(n_2 + 1) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_1 + 5) - (n_2 + 2)(n_1 + 4)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 5)(n_3 + 1) - (n_1 + 4)(n_3 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_4 + 1)(n_1 + 5) - (n_4 + 1)(n_1 + 4)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 5)(n_5 + 1) - (n_1 + 4)(n_5 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 5)(n_6 + 1) - (n_1 + 4)(n_6 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_5 + 1) - (n_2 + 2)(n_5 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_6 + 1) - (n_2 + 2)(n_6 + 1)] \\ &= n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4 + 3 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Other cases are similar.  $\square$

**Lemma 10.** Suppose  $G = E_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ , where  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq 2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G) &< M_1(E_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)), \\ M_2(G) &< M_2(E_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 11.** Suppose  $G = F_n(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$ , where  $n_i \geq 2$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ . Then

- 1)  $M_1(G) < M_1(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 2)  $M_2(G) < M_2(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 3)  $M_1(G) < M_1(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 4)  $M_2(G) < M_2(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3 - 1, n_4, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 5)  $M_1(G) < M_1(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5, n_6))$ ,
- 6)  $M_2(G) < M_2(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4 - 1, n_5, n_6))$ .
- 7)  $M_1(G) < M_1(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1, n_6))$ ,
- 8)  $M_2(G) < M_2(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5 - 1, n_6))$ ,
- 9)  $M_1(G) < M_1(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6 - 1))$ ,
- 10)  $M_2(G) < M_2(F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6 - 1))$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $G_1 = F_n(n_1 + 1, n_2 - 1, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_1) - M_1(G) &= n_1 + (n_1 + 4)^2 + (n_2 - 2) + (n_2 + 1)^2 \\ &\quad - (n_1 - 1) - (n_1 + 3)^2 - (n_2 + 2)^2 - (n_2 - 1) \\ &= 2n_1 - 2n_2 + 4 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_1) - M_2(G) &= [n_1(n_1 + 4) - (n_1 - 1)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 - 2)(n_2 + 1) - (n_2 - 1)(n_2 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_1 + 4) - (n_2 + 2)(n_1 + 3)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 4)(n_3 + 2) - (n_1 + 3)(n_3 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 4)(n_5 + 1) - (n_1 + 3)(n_5 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_1 + 4)(n_6 + 1) - (n_1 + 3)(n_6 + 1)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_3 + 2) - (n_2 + 2)(n_3 + 2)] \\ &\quad + [(n_2 + 1)(n_4 + 1) - (n_2 + 2)(n_4 + 1)] \\ &= n_1 + n_5 + n_6 - n_4 + 2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Other cases are similar.  $\square$

**Lemma 12.** Suppose  $G = F_n(n_1, n_2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ , where  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq 2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G) &< M_1(F_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)), \\ M_2(G) &< M_2(F_n(n_1 + n_2 - 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)). \end{aligned}$$

| No. | Graph                     | $M_1$           | $M_2$           | $n$        |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1   | $K_n(n-3, 1, 1, 1)$       | $n^2 - n + 24$  | $n^2 + 4n + 22$ | $n \geq 5$ |
| 2   | $K_n(n-4, 2, 1, 1)$       | $n^2 - 3n + 34$ | $n^2 + 3n + 27$ | $n \geq 6$ |
| 3   | $q_n(n-4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$    | $n^2 - n + 24$  | $n^2 + 4n + 19$ | $n \geq 5$ |
| 4   | $q_n(n-5, 2, 1, 1, 1)$    | $n^2 - 3n + 36$ | $n^2 + 3n + 25$ | $n \geq 7$ |
| 5   | $g_n(n-4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$    | $n^2 - n + 22$  | $n^2 + 4n + 16$ | $n \geq 5$ |
| 6   | $E_n(n-5, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ | $n^2 - n + 20$  | $n^2 + 4n + 11$ | $n \geq 6$ |
| 7   | $F_n(n-5, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ | $n^2 - 3n + 28$ | $n^2 + 2n + 17$ | $n \geq 6$ |
| 8   | $B^1(n, k)$               | $n^2 - n + 18$  | $n^2 + 4n + 7$  | $n \geq 7$ |
| 9   | $B^2(n, k)$               | $n^2 - 3n + 24$ | $n^2 + 3n + 4$  | $n \geq 9$ |
| 10  | $B^3(n, k)$               | $n^2 - 3n + 24$ | $n^2 + 2n + 8$  | $n \geq 8$ |

Table 1. The First and Second Maximum of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  in the Class of Tri-Cyclic Graphs.

*Proof.* The proof is similar to Lemma 4 and so it is omitted.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.** Among all graphs in  $R_n$  with  $n \geq 5$  vertices,

1.  $K_n(n-3, 1, 1, 1)$  and  $q_n(n-4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$  have the maximum values of first Zagreb index.
2. If  $n = 6, 7$  then  $K_6(2, 2, 1, 1)$  and  $q_7(2, 2, 1, 1, 1)$  have second maximum of the first Zagreb index, respectively. If  $n \geq 5$  then  $g_n(n-4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$  have second maximum of the first Zagreb index.
3. The graph  $K_n(n-3, 1, 1, 1)$  has maximum value of the second Zagreb index.
4. For  $n = 6, 7, 8$ , the graph  $K_n(n-4, 2, 1, 1)$  and for cases  $n = 5$  and  $n \geq 9$  the graph  $q_n(n-4, 1, 1, 1, 1)$  have second maximum of the second Zagreb index.

*Proof.* We record in Table 1, the maximum values of the first Zagreb index among of tri-cyclic graphs. The result follows easily from this table.  $\square$

**Acknowledgements.** The authors are indebted to the referee for his/her suggestions and helpful remarks. The research of the first and third authors was supported in part by the University of Kashan under grant no 159020/20. The research of the second author was supported in part by NSF of the Higher Education Institutions of Jiangsu Province (No. 12KJB110001), NNSF of China

(No.s 11201227, 11171273), SRF of HIT (No. HGA1010) and Qing Lan Project of Jiangsu Province, PR China.

## References

- [1] V. ANDOVA, N. COHEN, R. ŠKREKOVSKI: *A note on Zagreb indices inequality for trees and unicyclic graphs*, *Ars Math. Contemp.*, **5** (2012), 73-76.
- [2] A. R. ASHRAFI, T. DOŠLIĆ, A. HAMZEH: *The Zagreb coindices of graph operations*, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **158** (2010), 1571-1578.
- [3] K. C. DAS, I. GUTMAN: *Some properties of the second Zagreb index*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **52** (2004), 103-112.
- [4] K. C. DAS: *Sharp bounds for the sum of the squares of the degrees of a graph*, *Kragujevac J. Math.*, **25** (2003), 31-49.
- [5] K. C. DAS: *On comparing Zagreb Indices of graphs*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **63** (2010), 433-440.
- [6] H. DENG: *A unified approach to the extremal Zagreb indices for trees, unicyclic graphs and bicyclic graphs*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **57** (2007), 597-616.
- [7] I. GUTMAN, K. CH. DAS: *The first Zagreb index 30 years after*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **50** (2004), 83-92.
- [8] I. GUTMAN, N. TRINAJSTIĆ: *Graph theory and molecular orbitals, Total  $\pi$ -electron energy of alternant hydrocarbons*, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **17** (1972), 535-538.
- [9] B. HOROLDAGVA, K. C. DAS: *On comparing Zagreb indices of graphs*, *Hacettepe J. Math. Stat.*, **41** (2012), 223-230.
- [10] M. H. KHALIFEH, H. YOUSEFI-AZARI, A. R. ASHRAFI: *The first and second Zagreb indices of some graph operations*, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **157** (2009), 804-811.
- [11] S. LI, H. YANG, Q. ZHAO: *Sharp bound on Zagreb indices of cacti with  $k$  pendant vertices*, *Filomat*, **26** (2012), 1189-1200.
- [12] S. LI, Q. ZHAO: *Sharp upper bounds on Zagreb indices of bicyclic graphs with a given matching number*, *Math. Comput. Modelling*, **54** (2011), 2869-2879.
- [13] S. N. QIAO: *On the Zagreb index of quasi-tree graphs*, *Appl. Math. E-Notes*, **10** (2010), 147-150.
- [14] K. XU: *The Zagreb indices of graphs with a given clique number*, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **24** (2011), 1026-1030.
- [15] Z. YARAHMADI, A. R. ASHRAFI, S. MORADI: *Extremal polyomino chains with respect to Zagreb indices*, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **25** (2012), 166-171.
- [16] Q. ZHAO, S. LI: *Sharp bounds for the Zagreb indices of bicyclic graphs with pendant vertices*, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **158** (2010), 1953-1962.
- [17] B. ZHOU: *Zagreb indices*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **52** (2004), 113-118.
- [18] B. ZHOU, D. STEVANOVIĆ: *A note on Zagreb indices*, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **56** (2006), 571-578.
- [19] B. ZHOU: *Upper bounds for the Zagreb indices and the spectral radius of series-parallel graphs*, *Int. J. Quantum. Chem.*, **107** (2007), 875-878.

