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## Linear Algebra and its Applications

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/laa](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/laa)A note on sum of powers of the Laplacian eigenvalues of bipartite graphs<sup>☆</sup>Gui-Xian Tian<sup>a</sup>, Ting-Zhu Huang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Bo Zhou<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> School of Applied Mathematics, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, Sichuan 610054, PR China<sup>b</sup> Department of Mathematics, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510631, PR China

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## ABSTRACT

For a graph  $G$  and a real number  $\alpha \neq 0$ , the graph invariant  $s_\alpha(G)$  is the sum of the  $\alpha$ th power of the non-zero Laplacian eigenvalues of  $G$ . In this note, we obtain some bounds of  $s_\alpha(G)$  for a connected bipartite graph  $G$ , which improve some known results of Zhou [B. Zhou, On sum of powers of the Laplacian eigenvalues of graphs, *Linear Algebra Appl.* 429 (2008) 2239–2246].

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a simple finite undirected connected graph with vertex set  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and edge set  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . For  $v_i \in V$ , the degree of  $v_i$  and the sum of the degrees of the vertices adjacent to  $v_i$  are denoted by  $d_i$  and  $t_i$ , respectively. Note that  $t_i$  is also called the 2-degree of  $v_i$ . Denote by  $(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  the degree sequence of  $G$ . Denote by  $i \sim j$  if the vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are adjacent.

A graph  $G$  is called regular if every vertex of  $G$  has equal degree, that is,  $d_1 = d_2 = \dots = d_n$ .  $G$  is said a semiregular bipartite graph if there is a bipartition  $V_1, V_2$  of  $V(G)$  such that each vertex in the same part  $V_i$  has the same degree for  $i = 1, 2$ .

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For a connected graph  $G$ , the matrix  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$  is called the Laplacian matrix of  $G$ , where  $D(G) = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  is the diagonal matrix of vertex degrees of  $G$  and  $A(G)$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G$ . The eigenvalues of  $L(G)$  are called the Laplacian eigenvalues and denoted by  $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_{n-1} \geq \mu_n = 0$ . The eigenvalue  $\mu_1$  is called the Laplacian spectral radius of  $G$ . In addition,  $L(G)$  and  $D(G) + A(G)$  have the same eigenvalues if  $G$  is bipartite [1].

Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph. For a non-zero real number  $\alpha$ ,  $s_\alpha(G)$ , recently introduced in [13], is defined as

$$s_\alpha(G) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i^\alpha.$$

This definition was motivated by the graph energy [2,10] and the Laplacian energy [4–6,12]. The case  $\alpha = 1$  is trivial as  $s_1(G) = 2m$ . Some properties for  $s_2(G)$  and  $s_{\frac{1}{2}}(G)$  have been established in [5,6], respectively. In fact, for a connected graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices,  $ns_{-1}(G)$  is equal to its Kirrhoff index and quasi-Wiener index, which have extensive applications in electric circuit, probabilistic theory and chemistry [3,9]. Recently, Zhou [13] obtained some bounds for sum of powers of the Laplacian eigenvalues of  $G$ ,  $s_\alpha(G)$  with  $\alpha \neq 0, 1$ . For a bipartite graph  $G$ , Zhou [13] gave:

**Theorem A** [13]. *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices,  $t$  spanning trees. Then, for a real number  $\alpha \neq 0, 1$ ,*

$$s_\alpha \geq \left( 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}} \right)^\alpha + (n-2) \left( \frac{tn}{2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}}} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}}$$

with equality if and only if  $G = K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ .

**Theorem B** [13]. *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices,  $m$  edges:*

(i) *If  $\alpha < 0$  or  $\alpha > 1$ , then*

$$s_\alpha(G) \geq \left( 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}} \right)^\alpha + (n-2)^{1-\alpha} \left( 2m - 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}} \right)^\alpha$$

with equality if and only if  $G = K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ .

(ii) *If  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , then*

$$s_\alpha(G) \leq \left( 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}} \right)^\alpha + (n-2)^{1-\alpha} \left( 2m - 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n}} \right)^\alpha$$

with equality if and only if  $G = K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ .

In this note, we obtain a new lower bound on the Laplacian spectral radius for a bipartite graph  $G$ . Applying this result, we also present some bounds on sum of powers of the Laplacian eigenvalues of  $G$ ,  $s_\alpha(G)$  with  $\alpha \neq 0, 1$  and determine the extremal graphs of these bounds. Theoretic analysis shows that these results improve Theorems A and B.

**2. Main results**

We first present a new lower bound of the Laplacian spectral radius of bipartite graphs, which improves some known results in [11].

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected bipartite graph with degrees  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$ . Then*

$$\mu_1 \geq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i} (d_j^2 + t_j))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}. \tag{1}$$

The equality holds in (1) if and only if there exists a positive constant number  $t$  such that, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i} (d_j^2 + t_j)}{d_i^2 + t_i} = t.$$

In fact,  $t = \mu_1$ .

**Proof.** Since  $G$  is a bipartite graph, then  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$  and  $D(G) + A(G)$  have the same eigenvalues. Note that  $D(G) + A(G)$  is a nonnegative irreducible symmetric matrix.

Now assume that  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$  is the positive Perron eigenvector of  $D(G) + A(G)$  corresponding to  $\mu_1$ .

By the Raleigh principle, we have

$$\mu_1^2 = \mu_1((D(G) + A(G))^2) = \frac{x^T (D(G) + A(G))^2 x}{x^T x}. \tag{2}$$

Take  $C = (d_1^2 + t_1, d_2^2 + t_2, \dots, d_n^2 + t_n)^T$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} &(D(G) + A(G))C \\ &= D(G)C + A(G)C \\ &= \left( d_1(d_1^2 + t_1) + \sum_{j=1}^n a_{1j}(d_j^2 + t_j), \dots, d_n(d_n^2 + t_n) + \sum_{j=1}^n a_{nj}(d_j^2 + t_j) \right)^T \\ &= \left( d_1(d_1^2 + t_1) + \sum_{j \sim 1} (d_j^2 + t_j), \dots, d_n(d_n^2 + t_n) + \sum_{j \sim n} (d_j^2 + t_j) \right)^T \end{aligned}$$

and  $C^T C = \sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2$ . It follows from (2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1 &= \sqrt{\frac{x^T (D(G) + A(G))^2 x}{x^T x}} \\ &\geq \sqrt{\frac{C^T (D(G) + A(G))^2 C}{C^T C}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i} (d_j^2 + t_j))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose that the equality holds in (1). Then  $C$  is the positive Perron eigenvector of  $(D(G) + A(G))^2$  corresponding to  $\mu_1((D(G) + A(G))^2)$ , that is,  $(D(G) + A(G))^2 C = \mu_1((D(G) + A(G))^2)C$ . If the multiplicity of  $\mu_1^2 = \mu_1((D(G) + A(G))^2)$  is two, then  $-\mu_1$  is also an eigenvalue of  $D(G) + A(G)$ . This is impossible as  $D(G) + A(G)$  is a nonnegative irreducible positive semidefinite matrix. Hence, the multiplicity of  $\mu_1^2 = \mu_1((D(G) + A(G))^2)$  is one, and  $C$  is the positive Perron eigenvector of  $D(G) + A(G)$  corresponding to  $\mu_1$ , that is,  $(D(G) + A(G))C = \mu_1 C$ . This implies, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i} (d_j^2 + t_j)}{d_i^2 + t_i} = \mu_1.$$

Conversely, if there exists a positive constant number  $t$  such that, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j)}{d_i^2 + t_i} = t.$$

Then  $(D(G) + A(G))C = tC$ . By Perron–Frobenius Theorem, we have

$$\mu_1 = t = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}.$$

This completes our proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 2** [11]. Let  $G$  be a simple connected bipartite graph with degrees  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$ . Then

$$\mu_1 \geq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}}. \tag{3}$$

The equality holds in (3) if and only if  $G$  is a semiregular connected bipartite graph.

**Proof.** By a simple calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2\right)^2 &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j=1}^n (d_j^2 + t_j)t_j\right)^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j=1}^n (d_j^2 + t_j) \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}d_i\right)^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(d_j^2 + t_j)\right)^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2(d_i^2 + t_i) + d_i \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j))\right)^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j)) \cdot d_i\right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

By the Cauchy–Schwartz inequality,

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2\right)^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \left(d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j)\right)^2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2 \tag{4}$$

with equality if and only if there exists a positive constant number  $l$  such that, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j)}{d_i} = l.$$

Following from (4) and Theorem 1, the inequality (3) holds.

Now suppose that the equality holds in (3). By Theorem 1, there exists a positive constant number  $t$  such that, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i}(d_j^2 + t_j)}{d_i^2 + t_i} = t.$$

Thus we have, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,

$$\frac{d_i^2 + t_i}{d_i} = \frac{l}{t}.$$

The rest of the proof is similar to that of Theorem 9 in [11].

Conversely, assume that  $G$  is a semiregular connected bipartite graph of order  $n$  with first  $n_1$  vertices of degree  $\Delta$  and the remaining  $n_2$  vertices of degree  $\delta$ . Then  $\mu_1 = \Delta + \delta$  is the Laplacian spectral radius of  $L(G)$  and the corresponding eigenvector is  $(\Delta e_{n_1}^T, -\delta e_{n_2}^T)^T$ , where  $e_n^T \in R^n$  is the vector with each element 1. On the other hand, noting that  $t_i = \Delta\delta$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we have

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}} = \Delta + \delta.$$

Hence, the equality holds in (3).  $\square$

Applying Corollary 2, we can get the following result, which is exactly Corollary 10 in [11].

**Corollary 3** [11]. *Let  $G$  be a simple connected bipartite graph with degrees  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$ . Then*

$$\mu_1 \geq 2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}. \tag{5}$$

The equality holds in (5) if and only if  $G$  is a regular connected bipartite graph.

For a connected graph  $G$ , the diameter of  $G$  is the maximum distance between any two vertices of  $G$ . Denote the complement of the graph  $G$  by  $\bar{G}$ . Let  $K_n$  be the complete graph on  $n$  vertices; let  $K_{r,n-r}$  be the complete bipartite graph with a bipartition  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , where  $|V_1| = r$  and  $|V_2| = n - r$  with  $1 \leq r \leq n - 1$ . The join  $G_1 \vee G_2$  of two graphs  $G_1, G_2$  is formed from  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  by adding edges joining every vertex of  $G_1$  to every vertex of  $G_2$ .

**Lemma 4** [7]. *Let  $G$  be a connected graph with diameter  $d$ . Then  $G$  has at least  $d + 1$  distinct Laplacian eigenvalues.*

**Lemma 5** [8]. *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs with  $r$  vertices and  $s$  vertices, respectively. If the Laplacian eigenvalues of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$  and  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_s$ , respectively, then the Laplacian eigenvalues of  $G_1 \vee G_2$  are  $r + s; \lambda_1 + s, \dots, \lambda_{r-1} + s; \mu_1 + r, \dots, \mu_{s-1} + r$ ; and 0.*

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices. Then  $G$  has exactly three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues if and only if  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $G$  has exactly three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues. By Lemma 4,  $G$  has diameter at most 2. If the diameter of  $G$  equals to 1, then  $G = K_n$ , which contradicts with the condition that  $G$  is a connected bipartite graph of order  $n \geq 3$ . Thus, the diameter of  $G$  is 2, which implies that  $G$  is a complete bipartite graph  $K_{r,n-r}$  with  $1 \leq r \leq n - 1$ . Since  $K_{r,n-r} = \bar{K}_r \vee \bar{K}_{n-r}$ , by Lemma 5, the Laplacian eigenvalues of  $K_{r,n-r}$  are

$$n, \underbrace{n-r, \dots, n-r}_{r-1}, \underbrace{r, \dots, r}_{n-r-1}, 0$$

If  $r = 1, n - 1$ , then  $G$  has three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues  $n, 1$  and 0. Thus,  $G = K_{1,n-1}$ ; If  $2 \leq r \leq n - 2$ , then  $G$  has exactly three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues when  $n - r = r$ , thus forcing  $r = \frac{n}{2}$ . Hence,  $G = K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ .

Conversely, assume that  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ . It is easy to verify that  $G$  has exactly three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues.  $\square$

Now we shall present some bounds on sum of powers of the Laplacian eigenvalues of a bipartite graph  $G$  and determine the extremal graphs of these bounds.

Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices. For convenience, let  $w_i = d_i(d_i^2 + t_i) + \sum_{j \sim i} (d_j^2 + t_j)$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices,  $t$  spanning trees. Then, for a real number  $\alpha \neq 0, 1$ ,*

$$s_\alpha(G) \geq \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}} \right)^\alpha + (n-2)(tn)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}}. \tag{6}$$

The equality holds in (6) if and only if  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.

**Proof.** Note that our proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 4 in [13]. By the Matrix Tree Theorem [1], we get  $\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i = tn$ . Hence,

$$s_\alpha(G) = \mu_1^\alpha + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \mu_i^\alpha \geq \mu_1^\alpha + (n-2) \left( \prod_{i=2}^{n-1} \mu_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-2}} = \mu_1^\alpha + (n-2)(tn)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}} \mu_1^{-\frac{\alpha}{n-2}},$$

with equality if and only if  $\mu_2 = \dots = \mu_{n-1}$ . Take a function

$$f(x) = x^\alpha + (n-2)(tn)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}} x^{-\frac{\alpha}{n-2}}$$

for  $x \geq (tn)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ . Solving

$$f'(x) = \alpha x^{\alpha-1} - \alpha (tn)^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}} x^{-\frac{\alpha}{n-2}-1} \geq 0,$$

we get  $x \geq (tn)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ . Hence,  $f(x)$  is increasing for  $x \geq (tn)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}$ . By Theorem 1, Corollaries 2, 3 and the proof of Theorem 4 in [13], we have

$$\mu_1 \geq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}} \geq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}} \geq 2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2} \geq (tn)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}, \tag{7}$$

where the last inequality holds as

$$2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2} \geq \frac{4m}{n} > \frac{2m}{n-1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i}{n-1} \geq \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} = (tn)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}. \tag{8}$$

Hence,

$$s_\alpha(G) \geq f(\mu_1) \geq f \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}} \right),$$

which implies that the inequality (6) holds, and the equality holds in (6) if and only if  $\mu_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}$  and  $\mu_2 = \dots = \mu_{n-1}$ .

Now assume that the equality holds in (6). Then  $G$  has at most three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues. If  $G$  has two distinct Laplacian eigenvalues, then  $G = K_n$ , which contradicts with the condition that  $G$  is a connected bipartite graph of order  $n \geq 3$ . Thus  $G$  has exactly three distinct Laplacian eigenvalues. By Lemma 6, we obtain that  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.

Conversely, assume that  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ . It is easy to verify that the equality holds in (6).  $\square$

**Remark 1.** By the proof of Theorem 7, we may get

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_\alpha(G) &\geq f(\mu_1) \geq f\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right) \geq f\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}}\right) \\
 &\geq f\left(2\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}\right),
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that Theorem 7 improves Theorem A, that is, Theorem 4 in [13].

**Theorem 8.** Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices,  $m$  edges. Then, for a real number  $\alpha \neq 0, 1$ ,

(i) If  $\alpha < 0$  or  $\alpha > 1$ , then

$$s_\alpha(G) \geq \left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right)^\alpha + (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} \left(2m - \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right)^\alpha. \tag{9}$$

The equality holds in (9) if and only if  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.

(ii) If  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , then

$$s_\alpha(G) \leq \left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right)^\alpha + (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} \left(2m - \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right)^\alpha. \tag{10}$$

The equality holds in (10) if and only if  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.

**Proof.** Note that our proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 5 in [13].

To prove (i), assume that  $\alpha < 0$  or  $\alpha > 1$ . Since  $x^\alpha (x > 0)$  is a strictly convex function when  $\alpha < 0$  or  $\alpha > 1$ , then

$$\sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n-2} \mu_i^\alpha \geq \left(\sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n-2} \mu_i\right)^\alpha$$

with equality if and only if  $\mu_2 = \dots = \mu_{n-1}$ . Hence,

$$s_\alpha(G) = \mu_1^\alpha + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \mu_i^\alpha \geq \mu_1^\alpha + (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} \left(\sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \mu_i\right)^\alpha = \mu_1^\alpha + (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} (2m - \mu_1)^\alpha.$$

Take a function

$$g(x) = x^\alpha + (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} (2m - x)^\alpha$$

for  $x \geq \frac{2m}{n-1}$ . Solving

$$g'(x) = \alpha x^{\alpha-1} - \alpha (n - 2)^{1-\alpha} (2m - x)^{\alpha-1} \geq 0,$$

we get  $x \geq \frac{2m}{n-1}$ , which implies that  $g(x)$  is increasing for  $x \geq \frac{2m}{n-1}$ . Hence, from (7) and (8), we have

$$s_\alpha(G) \geq g(\mu_1) \geq g\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right),$$

which implies that the inequality (9) holds, and the equality holds in (9) if and only if  $\mu_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}$  and  $\mu_2 = \dots = \mu_{n-1}$ .

In the following, using similar arguments as in Theorem 7, we get that the equality holds in (9) if and only if  $G = K_{1,n-1}$  or  $K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$ , where  $n$  is even.

If  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , then  $x^\alpha (x > 0)$  is a strictly concave function and  $g(x)$  is decreasing for  $x \geq \frac{2m}{n-1}$ . By a parallel argument, we may prove (ii).  $\square$

**Remark 2.** From the proof of Theorem 8, we may see

(i) If  $\alpha < 0$  or  $\alpha > 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} s_\alpha(G) &\geq g(\mu_1) \geq g\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right) \geq g\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}}\right) \\ &\geq g\left(2\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}\right); \end{aligned}$$

(ii) If  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} s_\alpha(G) &\leq g(\mu_1) \leq g\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}}\right) \leq g\left(\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i^2 + t_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}}\right) \\ &\leq g\left(2\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, Theorem 8 improves Theorem B, that is, Theorem 5 in [13].

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