

## The Detour Polynomials of the Corona of Graphs

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### ABSTRACT

A new graph distance based polynomial, called detour polynomial, is introduced. The detour polynomial and the detour index of the corona  $G_1 \circ G_2$  of two connected disjoint graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are obtained in this paper.

**Keywords:** distance, detour distance, detour polynomial, detour index, corona.

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### المخلص

في هذا البحث استعرضنا متعددات حدود جديدة معتمدة على مسافة الالتفاف في البيانات. وقد تضمن البحث الحصول على متعددة حدود الالتفاف ودليل الالتفاف لإكليل  $G_1 \circ G_2$  لبيانات متصلين ومنفصلين عن بعضهما  $G_1$  و  $G_2$ .

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** المسافة، مسافة الالتفاف، متعددة حدود الالتفاف، دليل الالتفاف، الإكليل.

### 1. Introduction :

The concept of Hosoya polynomial was first put forward in 1988 by Hosoya [14]. Several authors, such as [1]-[4], [12], and [14]-[17] had obtained Hosoya polynomials for special graphs, graphs having some kind of regularity and for compound graphs obtained by using some well-known binary operations in graph theory.

In this paper, we consider finite connected graphs without loops or multiple edges. For undefined concepts and notations see [6] and [13].

The standard distance  $d(u, v)$  between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a connected graph  $G$  is the length of a shortest  $u - v$  path in  $G$ . This is not the only way, however, that distance has been defined on the vertex set of a connected graph. The length of a longest  $u - v$  path between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in a connected graph is called the **detour distance**  $D(u, v)$  between  $u$  and  $v$ . As with standard distance, detour distance is a metric on the vertex set of any connected graph [7]. A  $u - v$  path of length  $D(u, v)$  is  $u - v$  **detour**. It is clear that  $D(u, v) = 1$  if and only if  $uv$  is a bridge of  $G$ , and  $D(u, v) = p(G) - 1$  if and only if  $G$  contains a Hamiltonian  $u - v$  path. Furthermore,

$d(u, v) = D(u, v)$  for every two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $G$  if and only if  $G$  is a tree. It is possible, however, that  $d(u, v) = D(u, v)$  for some pairs  $u, v$  of distinct vertices in a graph that contains no bridges. The **detour eccentricity**  $e_D(v)$  of a vertex  $v$  is the maximum detour distances from  $v$  to all other vertices in  $G$ . The **detour radius**  $rad_D(G)$  of a connected graph  $G$  is the minimum detour eccentricity among the vertices of  $G$ , and the **detour diameter**  $diam_D(G)$  is the maximum detour eccentricity among the vertices of  $G$ . Since  $d(x, y) \leq D(x, y)$  for every two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $G$ , it follows that  $e(v) \leq e_D(v)$  for every vertex  $v$ . Therefore,  $rad(G) \leq rad_D(G)$  and  $diam(G) \leq diam_D(G)$  for every connected graph  $G$  (see [9], [10] and [18]). In fact  $rad_D(G) \leq diam_D(G) \leq 2rad_D(G)$ , see [9].

Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $p$  and size  $q$ . The **detour polynomial** of  $G$ , denoted by  $D(G; x)$ , is defined by

$$D(G; x) = \sum_{u, v \in V} x^{D(u, v)}, \quad u \neq v; \quad V = V(G).$$

It is clear that  $D(G; x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} C_D(G, k) x^k$ , in which  $C_D(G, k)$  is the number of unordered pairs  $u, v$  such that  $D(u, v) = k$ .

Amić and Trinajstić [5] were first to consider the **detour index**  $dd(G)$  defined as the sum of the detour matrix elements above the main diagonal. The detour index is used in quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) studies. Lukovits [15] tested the detour index on the correlation of the boiling points of alkanes of cycloalkanes. The detour index can also be obtained from the detour polynomial, because

$$dd(G) = \sum_{u, v} D(u, v) = \left. \frac{d D(G; x)}{dx} \right|_{x=1} = \sum_{k \geq 1} k C_D(G, k).$$

Let  $C_D(G; v, k)$  be the number of vertices  $u$  ( $u \neq v$ ) such that  $D(u, v) = k$ . Then, we define for each vertex  $v$  of  $G$ :

$$D(G; v, x) = \sum_{\substack{k \geq m(v) \\ u \in V \\ u \neq v}}^{e_D(v)} C_D(G; v, k) x^k = \sum_{\substack{u \in V \\ u \neq v}} x^{D(v, u)},$$

where  $e_D(v)$  is the detour eccentricity of vertex  $v$ , and  $m(v)$  is the minimum detour distance from  $v$ . This polynomial is called the **detour polynomial of vertex**  $v$ . It is clear that

$$D(G; x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{v \in V} D(G; v, x).$$

## 2. The Corona $G_1 \circ G_2$ :

The **corona** of two disjoint graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  of orders  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ , respectively, is the graph  $G = G_1 \circ G_2$  defined by taking one copy of  $G_1$  and  $p_1$  copies of  $G_2$ , and then joining the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex of  $G_1$  to every vertex in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $G_2$ , as illustrated in Fig.2.1, where the copies of  $G_2$  are denoted by  $G'_1, G'_2, \dots, G'_{p_1}$ ,

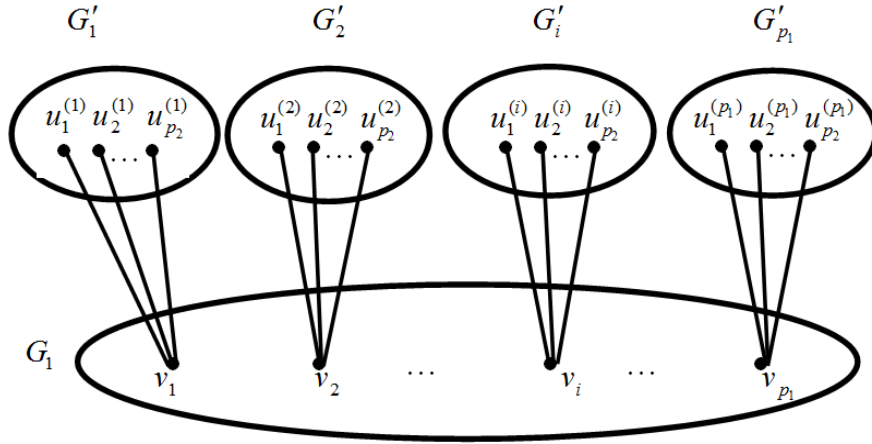
$$V_1 = V(G_1) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p_1}\},$$

$$U^{(i)} = V(G'_i) = \{u_1^{(i)}, u_2^{(i)}, \dots, u_{p_2}^{(i)}\}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, p_1,$$

$$V_2 = V(G_2) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{p_2}\},$$

and

$$U = \bigcup_{i=1}^{p_1} U^{(i)}.$$



**Fig.2.1** The corona  $G_1 \odot G_2$

It follows, from the definition of the corona  $G_1 \odot G_2$ , that  $p(G_1 \odot G_2) = p_1(1 + p_2)$ ,  $q(G_1 \odot G_2) = q_1 + p_1q_2 + p_1p_2$  and  $\text{diam}(G_1 \odot G_2) = \text{diam}(G_1) + 2$ .

Note that  $G_1 \odot G_2 \neq G_2 \odot G_1$  unless  $G_1 \cong G_2$ .

Thus, the corona is a binary graph operation, it was defined for the first time by Frucht and Harary [11] in 1970, and used in studying the automorphism group of graphs. Recently, in 2007, the Hosoya polynomial of the corona of two graphs, with respect to Steiner distance, was obtained [1]. So, we think that it is an interesting to obtain the Hosoya polynomial of the corona with respect to detour distance.

We begin discussing the detour distance and detour diameter of  $G_1 \odot G_2$ . Let  $e_D^{(i)}(w)$  be the detour eccentricity of vertex  $w$  in the graph  $G_i$ ,  $i=1,2$ . Define the graph  $G_2^+$  as  $G_2 + K_1$ .

**Proposition 2.1:** Let  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  be any two distinct vertices of  $G = G_1 \odot G_2$ . Then, the detour distance  $D_G(w_1, w_2)$  equals:

- 1)  $D_{G_1}(w_1, w_2)$ , if  $w_1, w_2 \in V(G_1)$ ;
- 2)  $D_{G_2^+}(w_1, w_2)$ , if  $w_1, w_2 \in V(G'_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq p_1$ ;
- 3)  $1 + e_D^{(2)}(w_2)$ , if  $w_1 = v_i$  and  $w_2 \in V(G'_i)$  for some  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq p_1$ ;
- 4)  $D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) + e_D^{(2)}(w_2) + 1$ , if  $w_1 = v_i$  and  $w_2 \in V(G'_j)$ , where  $i \neq j$  and  $1 \leq i, j \leq p_1$ ;
- 5)  $D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) + e_D^{(2)}(w_1) + e_D^{(2)}(w_2) + 2$ , if  $w_1 \in V(G'_i)$ ,  $w_2 \in V(G'_j)$ , where  $i \neq j$  and  $1 \leq i, j \leq p_1$ .

**Proof:** 1) Obvious.

2) Any detour between two vertices of  $G'_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq p_1$  must contain vertex  $v_i$  and does not contain another vertex of  $G_1$ . Therefore  $D_G(w_1, w_2) = D_{G_2^+}(w_1, w_2)$ .

3) If  $w'_2$  is the detour eccentric vertex of  $w_2$  in  $G'_i$ , that is  $D_{G_2}(w_2, w'_2) = e_D^{(2)}(w_2)$ , then a detour from  $v_i$  to  $w_2$  consists of the edge  $v_i w'_2$  followed by the detour in  $G'_i$  between  $w'_2$  to  $w_2$ . Therefore  $D_G(w_1, w_2) = 1 + e_D^{(2)}(w_2)$ .

4) In this case a detour between  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  in  $G$  consists of a detour between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  in  $G_1$  followed by the edge  $v_i w'_2$  then the detour between  $w'_2$  and  $w_2$  in  $G'_j$ , here  $w'_2$  is the detour eccentric vertex of  $w_2$  in  $G'_j$ . Thus

$$D_G(w_1, w_2) = D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) + 1 + e_D^{(2)}(w_2).$$

5) A detour between a vertex  $w_1$  of  $G'_i$  and a vertex  $w_2$  of  $G'_j$ ,  $i \neq j$ , is constructed from a detour from  $w_1$  to  $w'_1$  (the detour eccentric vertex of  $w_1$ ), followed by the edge  $w'_1 v_j$ , then a detour from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  in  $G_1$ , then followed by the edge  $v_j w'_2$  and finally followed by a detour  $w'_2 - w_2$  in  $G'_j$ . The length of this detour is  $D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) + e_D^{(2)}(w_1) + e_D^{(2)}(w_2) + 2$ . Hence, the proof is complete. ■

**Proposition 2.2:** For a connected nontrivial graph  $G_1$  and any connected graph  $G_2$ ,  $diam_D(G_1 \circ G_2) = diam_D(G_1) + 2diam_D(G_2) + 2$ .

**Proof:** Let  $v_i, v_j$  be two vertices of  $G_1$  such that  $D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) = diam_D(G_1)$ ; and let  $u_l, u_k$  be two vertices of  $G_2$  such that  $D_{G_2}(u_l, u_k) = diam_D(G_2)$ .

One may easily check from Fig.2.1 and Proposition 2.1(5), that

$$\begin{aligned} D_G(u_l^{(i)}, u_k^{(j)}) &= D_{G'_i}(u_l^{(i)}, u_k^{(i)}) + 1 + D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j) + 1 + D_{G'_j}(u_l^{(j)}, u_k^{(j)}) \\ &= diam_D(G_1) + 2diam_D(G_2) + 2. \end{aligned}$$

Now, let  $w_1, w_2$  be any two vertices of  $G_1 \circ G_2$ , then:

- 1- If  $w_1, w_2 \in V(G_1)$ , then  $D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq diam_D(G_1)$ ;
- 2- If  $w_1, w_2 \in V(G'_r)$  for some  $r$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq p_1$ , then, let  $Q$  be a  $w_1 - w_2$  detour. If  $v_r \notin V(Q)$ , then  $D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq diam_D(G_2)$ .  
If  $v_r \in V(Q)$ , then  $Q - v_r$  consists of two paths in  $G'_r$  each of length not more than  $diam_D(G_2)$ . Thus  $D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq 2diam_D(G_2) + 2$ ;
- 3- If  $w_1 \in V(G'_t)$  and  $w_2 \in V(G'_s)$ ,  $t \neq s$ , then  $D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq diam_D(G_1) + 2diam_D(G_2) + 2$ ;
- 4- If  $w_1 \in V(G_1)$  and  $w_2 \in V(G'_m)$ , then  $D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq diam_D(G_1) + 1 + diam_D(G_2)$ .

Therefore, for all cases of  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ , we have

$$D_G(w_1, w_2) \leq diam_D(G_1) + 2diam_D(G_2) + 2.$$

Hence, the proof is complete. ■

The **minimum detour** of a connected graph  $G$  is denoted by  $D_{\min}(G)$ , and defined as

$$D_{\min}(G) = \min\{D(u, v) : u \neq v, u, v \in V(G)\}.$$

Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be disjoint connected graphs, and let  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  be vertices of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , respectively. Then, the **vertex identified graph**  $H_1 \bullet H_2$  is obtained from  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  by identifying the vertices  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ . We notice, that

$$D_{\min}(H_1 \bullet H_2) = \min\{D_{\min}(H_1), D_{\min}(H_2)\}.$$

Applying this fact, we can easily prove the following proposition, which determines  $D_{\min}(G_1 \circ G_2)$ .

**Proposition 2.3 :** For disjoint connected nontrivial graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , we have

$$D_{\min}(G_1 \circ G_2) = \min\{D_{\min}(G_1), D_{\min}(G_2^+)\}.$$

### 3. The Detour Polynomial of $G_1 \circ G_2$ :

To determine the detour polynomial of the corona  $G_1 \circ G_2$ , we introduce the **detour eccentric polynomial** of a connected graph  $G$ , defined as follows:

$$D_{ecc}(G; x) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} x^{e_D(v)}.$$

For example:

$$D_{ecc}(C_p; x) = px^{p-1}$$

$$D_{ecc}(P_p; x) = \begin{cases} 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{p}{2}} x^{p-i}, & \text{for even } p \\ x^{\frac{p-1}{2}} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} x^{p-i}, & \text{for odd } p. \end{cases}$$

We shall obtain the detour polynomial of the corona  $G_1 \circ G_2$  in terms of  $D(G_i; x)$  and  $D_{ecc}(G_i; x)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

We set the following definitions:

$$D(G, V_1; x) = \sum_{i=1}^{p_1} D(G, v_i; x),$$

$$D(G, U^{(i)}; x) = \sum_{j=1}^{p_2} D(G, u_j^{(i)}; x),$$

$$D(G, U; x) = \sum_{i=1}^{p_1} D(G, U^{(i)}; x).$$

Then

$$D(G; x) = \frac{1}{2} [D(G, V_1; x) + D(G, U; x)].$$

#### Proposition 3.1:

$$D(G, V_1; x) = 2D(G_1; x) + xp_1 D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + 2x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) D(G_1; x).$$

**Proof:** From Proposition 2.1, for each  $v_i \in V(G_1)$ , we have

$$D(G, v_i; x) = \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{p_1} x^{D(v_i, v_j)} + \sum_{w \in U^{(i)}} x^{D(v_i, w)} + \sum_{\substack{w \in U^{(j)} \\ j \neq i}}^{p_1} x^{D(v_i, w)}.$$

Summing over all  $i=1, 2, \dots, p_1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(G, V_1; x) &= \sum_{\substack{i, j \in V_1 \\ i \neq j}} x^{D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j)} + p_1 \sum_{w \in V_2} x^{1+e_{G_2}(w)} + \sum_{i=1}^{p_1} \sum_{\substack{w \in U^{(j)} \\ i \neq j}} x^{1+D_{G_1}(v_i, v_j)+e_{G_2}(u)} \\
 &= 2D(G_1; x) + p_1 x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x). 2D(G_1; x). \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.2:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(G, U; x) &= 2p_1 D(G_2^+; x) - p_1 x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x). 2D(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + x^2 [D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2. 2D(G_1; x).
 \end{aligned}$$

**Proof:** From Proposition 2.1, for each  $u_i^{(j)}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p_2$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, p_1$ , we have

$$D(G, u_i^{(j)}; x) = D(G_2^+; u_i^{(j)}; x) + \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq j}}^{p_1} x^{D_{G_1}(v_j, v_k)+1+ecc_D(u_i)} + \sum_{\substack{n=1, k=1 \\ n \neq j}}^{n=p_1, p_2=k} x^{2+ecc_D(u_i)+ecc_D(u_k)+D_{G_1}(v_j, v_n)}.$$

Summing over both  $j = 1, 2, \dots, p_1$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p_2$ , we get, using the above notations and definitions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(G, U; x) &= p_1 [2D(G_2^+; x) - x D_{ecc}(G_2; x)] + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x). 2D(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + x^2 D_{ecc}(G_2; x). D_{ecc}(G_2; x). 2D(G_1; x).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the proof is complete.  $\blacksquare$

**Theorem 3.3:** For connected nontrivial graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , the detour polynomial of the corona graph  $G_1 \circ G_2$  is

$$D(G_1 \circ G_2; x) = [1 + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2. D(G_1; x) + p_1 D(G_2^+; x).$$

**Proof:** From Propositions 3.1 and 3.2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(G_1 \circ G_2; x) &= \frac{1}{2} [2D(G_1; x) + p_1 x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + 2x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) D(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + 2p_1 D(G_2^+; x) - p_1 x D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + 2x D_{ecc}(G_2; x). D(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + 2x^2 D(G_1; x) [D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2] \\
 &= D(G_1; x) + 2x D_{ecc}(G_2; x). D(G_1; x) + p_1 D(G_2^+; x) \\
 &\quad + x^2 [D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2. D(G_1; x) \\
 &= [1 + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2. D(G_1; x) + p_1 D(G_2^+; x). \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

To obtain the detour index of the corona  $G_1 \circ G_2$ , we give the definition of the **eccentricity sum of a graph**, denoted by  $S_{ecc}(G)$ :

$$S_{ecc}(G) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} ecc_D(v).$$

**Corollary 3.4:** The detour index of  $G_1 \circ G_2$  is given as

$$dd(G_1 \circ G_2) = (1 + p_2)^2. dd(G_1) + p_1(p_1 - 1)(p_2 + 1)[p_2 + S_{ecc}(G_2)] + p_1. dd(G_2^+),$$

**Proof:** Taking the derivative of  $D(G_1 \circ G_2; x)$  given in Theorem 3.3, with respect to  $x$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 D'(G_1 \circ G_2; x) &= [1 + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]^2. D'(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + 2[1 + x D_{ecc}(G_2; x)]. [D_{ecc}(G_2; x) + x D'_{ecc}(G_2; x)]. D(G_1; x) \\
 &\quad + p_1 D'(G_2^+; x)
 \end{aligned}$$

Then , putting  $x = 1$  , we get

$$\begin{aligned} dd(G_1 \circ G_2) &= D'(G_1 \circ G_2; 1) \\ &= (1 + p_2)^2 dd(G_1) + 2(1 + p_2)[p_2 + D'_{ecc}(G_2; 1)] \cdot \frac{1}{2} p_1(p_1 - 1) + p_1 dd(G_2^+) \end{aligned}$$

Then , simplifying the above expression and noticing that

$$D'_{ecc}(G_2; 1) = S_{ecc}(G_2) ,$$

we get the required formula of  $dd(G_1 \circ G_2)$  . ■

**Example:** Let  $G_1 = C_n$  the cycle of order  $n$  , and  $G_2 = K_m$  , the complete graph of order  $m$ , then

$$D(C_n; x) = \begin{cases} n(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x^{\frac{n+1}{2}}), & \text{for odd } n, \\ n(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x^{1+\frac{n}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{n}{2}}), & \text{for even } n, \end{cases}$$

$$D_{ecc}(K_m; x) = mx^{m-1},$$

and

$$D(G_2^+; x) = D(K_{m+1}; x) = \frac{1}{2} m(m+1)x^m.$$

Thus, using Theorem 3.3, we get

$$\begin{aligned} D(C_n \circ K_m; x) &= \frac{1}{2} nm(m+1)x^m \\ &+ (1 + mx^m)^2 \cdot \begin{cases} n(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x^{\frac{n+1}{2}}) , & \text{for odd } n \\ n(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x^{1+\frac{n}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{n}{2}}) , & \text{for even } n . \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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