



Research article

Analyzing the normalized Laplacian spectrum and spanning tree of the cross of the derivative of linear networks

Ze-Miao Dai<sup>1</sup>, Jia-Bao Liu<sup>2</sup> and Kang Wang<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Information Technology, Anhui Vocational College of Defense Technology, Luan 237011, China

<sup>2</sup> School of Mathematics and Physics, Anhui Jianzhu University, Hefei 230601, China

\* Correspondence: Email: wangkang199804@163.com.

**Abstract:** In this paper, we focus on the strong product of the pentagonal networks. Let  $R_n$  be a hexagonal network composed of  $2n$  pentagons and  $n$  quadrilaterals. Let  $P_n^2$  denote the graph formed by the strong product of  $R_n$  and its copy  $R'_n$ . By utilizing the decomposition theorem of the normalized Laplacian characteristics polynomial, we characterize the explicit formula of the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index completely. Moreover, the complexity of  $P_n^2$  is determined.

**Keywords:** (multiplicative degree) Kirchhoff index; Wiener index; Gutman index; spanning trees

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 05C50, 05C90

1. Introduction

Throughout this article, we only consider simple, undirected, and finite graphs and assume that all graphs are connected. Suppose  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph with the vertex set  $V(\mathcal{G}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and the edge set  $E(\mathcal{G}) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . The adjacency matrix  $A(\mathcal{G})$  is a  $0 - 1n \times n$  matrix indexed by the vertices of  $\mathcal{G}$  and defined by  $a_{ij} = 1$  if and only if  $v_s v_t \in E_{\mathcal{G}}$ . For more notation, one refer to [1].

The Laplacian matrix of graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is defined as  $L(\mathcal{G}) = D(\mathcal{G}) - A(\mathcal{G})$ , and assume that the eigenvalues of  $L(\mathcal{G})$  are labeled  $0 \leq \mu_1 < \mu_2 < \dots < \mu_n$ .

$$(\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{G}))_{st} = \begin{cases} 1, & s = t; \\ -1, & s \neq t, v_s \sim v_t; \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

The normalized Laplacian matrix is given by

$$(\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{G}))_{st} = \begin{cases} 1, & s = t; \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{d_s d_t}}, & s \neq t, v_s \sim v_t; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

The distance,  $d_{ij} = d_{\mathcal{G}}(v_s, v_t)$ , between vertices  $u_s$  and  $u_t$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  is the length of the shortest  $u_s, u_t$ -path in  $\mathcal{G}$ . The Wiener index [2, 3] is the sum of the distances of any two vertices in the graph  $\mathcal{G}$ , that is

$$W(G) = \sum_{s < t} d_{st}.$$

In 1947, the distance-based invariant first appeared in chemistry [2, 3] and began to be applied to mathematics 30 years later [5]. Nowadays, the Wiener index is widely used in mathematics [6–8] and chemistry [9–11].

In a simple graph  $\mathcal{G}$ , the degree,  $d_{ij} = d_{\mathcal{G}}(v_i)$ , of a vertex  $v_i$  is the number of edges at  $v_i$ . The Gutman index [12] of the simple graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is expressed by

$$Gut(\mathcal{G}) = \sum_{s < t} d_s d_t d_{st}.$$

Klein and Randić initially outlined the concepts associated with the resistance distance of the graph. Assume that each edge is replaced by a unit resistor, and we use  $r_{st}$  to denote the resistance distance between two vertices  $s$  and  $t$ . Similar to the Wiener index, the Kirchhoff index [13, 14] of graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is expressed as the sum of the resistance distances between each two vertices, that is

$$Kf(\mathcal{G}) = \sum_{s < t} r_{st}.$$

In 2007, Chen and Zhang [15] defined the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index [16, 17], that is

$$Kf^*(\mathcal{G}) = \sum_{s < t} d_s d_t r_{st}.$$

Phenyl is a conjugated hydrocarbon, and  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  denote a linear chain, containing  $n$  hexagons and  $2n - 1$  squares, as shown in Figure 1.

With the rapid changes of the times, organic chemistry has also developed rapidly, which has led to a growing interest in polycyclic aromatic compounds.

In 1985, the computational method and procedure of the matrix decomposition theorem were proposed by Yang [18]. This led to the solution of some problems in graph networks and allowed the unprecedented development of self-homogeneous linear hydrocarbon chains. For example, in 2021, X.L. Ma [20] got the normalized Laplacian spectrum of linear phenylene, and the linear phenylene containing it has  $n$  hexagons and  $n - 1$  squares. L. Lan [21] explored linear phenylene with  $n$  hexagons and  $n$  squares. Umar Ali [22] analyzed the strong prism of a graph  $G$ , which is the strong

product of the complete graph of order 2, and X.Y. Geng [23] obtained the Laplacian spectrum of  $L_n^{6,4,4}$ , which contains  $n$  hexagons and  $2n - 1$  squares. J.B. Liu [24] derived the Kirchhoff index and complexity of  $O_n$ , which denoting linear octagonal-quadrilateral networks. C. Liu [25] got the Laplacian spectrum and Kirchhoff index of  $L_n$ , and  $L_n$  has  $t$  hexagons and  $3t + 1$  quadrangles.

Inspired by these recent works, we try to investigate the Laplacians and the normalized Laplaceans for graph transformations on phenyl dicyclobutadieno derivatives.

The various sections of this article are as follows: In Section 2, we proposed some concepts and lemmas and used them in subsequent articles. In Section 3 and Section 4, we acquired the Laplacian matrix and the normalized Laplacian matrix, then we made sure the Kirchhoff index, the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index, and the complexity of  $L_n$ . In Section 5, we obtained conclusions based on the calculations in this paper.

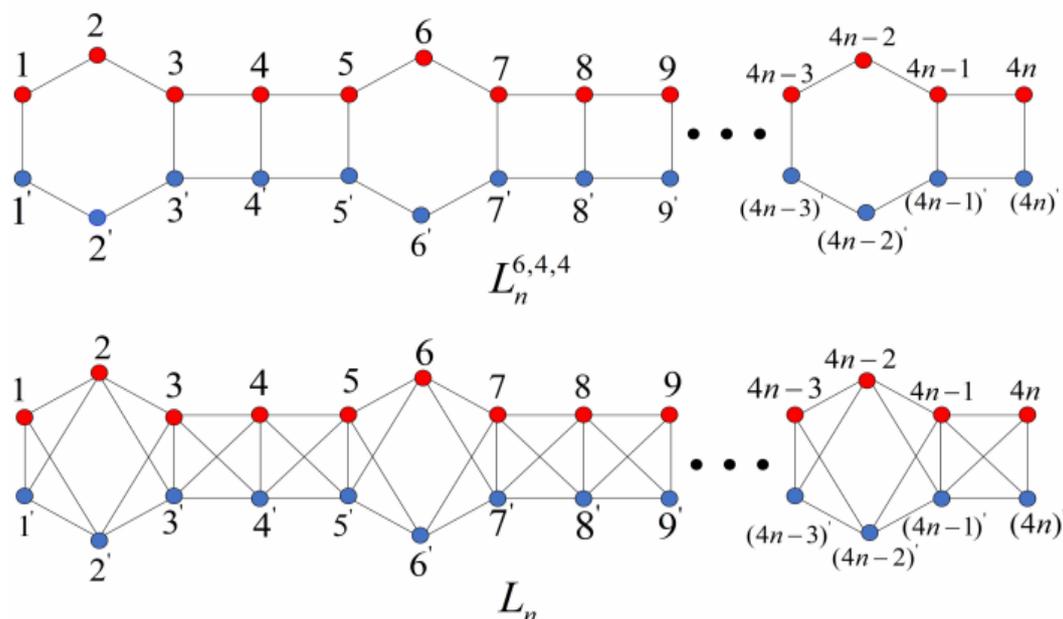


Figure 1. Graphs of  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  and  $L_n$ .

## 2. Preliminary works

In this article, graph  $L_n$  and graph  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  are portrayed in Figure 1. Define the characteristic polynomial of matrix  $U$  of order  $n$  as  $P_U(x) = \det(xI - U)$ .

It is easy to understand that  $\pi = (1, 1')(2, 2') \cdots ((4n), (4n)')$  is an automorphism. Let  $V_1 = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{4n+1}, v_1, \dots, v_{4n}\}$ ,  $V_2 = \{u'_1, u'_2, \dots, u'_{4n}, v'_1, \dots, v'_{4n+1}\}$ ,  $|V(L_n)| = 8n$  and  $|E(L_n)| = 19n - 4$ . Thus, the (normalized) Laplacians matrix can be expressed in the form of a block matrix, that is

$$\mathcal{L}(L_n) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_{V_0V_0} & \mathcal{L}_{V_0V_1} & \mathcal{L}_{V_0V_2} \\ \mathcal{L}_{V_1V_0} & \mathcal{L}_{V_1V_1} & \mathcal{L}_{V_1V_2} \\ \mathcal{L}_{V_2V_0} & \mathcal{L}_{V_2V_1} & \mathcal{L}_{V_2V_2} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $L_{V_s V_t}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{V_s V_t}$  are a submatrix consisting of rows corresponding to the vertices in  $V_s$  and columns corresponding to the vertices in  $V_t$ ,  $s, t = 0, 1, 2$ . Let

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} I_t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}I_{4n} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}I_{4n} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}I_{4n} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}I_{4n} \end{pmatrix},$$

then

$$QL(L_{\mathcal{G}})Q' = \begin{pmatrix} L_A(\mathcal{G}) & 0 \\ 0 & L_S(\mathcal{G}) \end{pmatrix}, QL(\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{G}})Q' = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_A(\mathcal{G}) & 0 \\ 0 & \mathcal{L}_S(\mathcal{G}) \end{pmatrix},$$

and  $Q'$  is the transposition of  $Q$ .

$$L_A = L_{V_1 V_1} + L_{V_1 V_2}, L_S = L_{V_1 V_1} - L_{V_1 V_2}, \mathcal{L}_A = \mathcal{L}_{V_1 V_1} + \mathcal{L}_{V_1 V_2}, \mathcal{L}_S = \mathcal{L}_{V_1 V_1} - \mathcal{L}_{V_1 V_2}$$

**Lemma 2.1.** [20] *If  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph and suppose that  $L_A(\mathcal{G})$ ,  $L_S(\mathcal{G})$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_A(\mathcal{G})$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_S(\mathcal{G})$  are determined as above, then*

$$\vartheta_{L(L_n)}(y) = \theta_{L_A(\mathcal{G})}(y)\theta_{L_S(\mathcal{G})}(y), \vartheta_{\mathcal{L}(L_n)}(y) = \theta_{\mathcal{L}_A(\mathcal{G})}(y)\theta_{\mathcal{L}_S(\mathcal{G})}(y).$$

**Lemma 2.2.** [26] *With the extensive study of the Kirchhoff index, Gutman and Mohar proposed an algorithm based on the relation between the Kirchhoff index and the Laplacian eigenvalues, namely*

$$Kf(\mathcal{G}) = n \sum_{t=2}^n \frac{1}{\xi_t},$$

and the eigenvalues of  $L(\mathcal{G})$  are  $0 = \xi_1 < \xi_2 \leq \dots \leq \xi_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ).

**Lemma 2.3.** [14] *Suppose that the eigenvalues of  $L(\mathcal{G})$  are  $\xi_1 \leq \xi_2 \leq \dots \leq \xi_n$ , then its multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index can be denoted by*

$$Kf^*(\mathcal{G}) = 2m \sum_{t=2}^n \frac{1}{\xi_t}.$$

**Lemma 2.4.** [1] *The number of spanning trees in  $\mathcal{G}$  can also be called the complexity of  $\mathcal{G}$ . If  $\mathcal{G}$  is a graph with  $|V_{\mathcal{G}}| = n$  and  $|E_{\mathcal{G}}| = m$ . Let  $\lambda_i$  ( $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ ) be the eigenvalues of  $L(\mathcal{G})$ . Then the complexity of  $\mathcal{G}$  is*

$$2m\tau(\mathcal{G}) = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i \cdot \prod_{i=2}^n \lambda_i.$$



and

$$L_S = \text{diag}(4, 4, 6, 6, 6, 4, \dots, 6, 4, 6, 4).$$

Assume that  $0 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 \leq \alpha_3 \leq \dots \leq \alpha_{4n}$  are the roots of  $P_{L_A}(x) = 0$ , and  $0 \leq \beta_1 \leq \beta_2 \leq \beta_3 \leq \dots \leq \beta_{4n}$  are the roots of  $P_{L_S}(x) = 0$ . By Lemma 2.2, we immediately have

$$Kf(L_n^2) = 2(4n) \left( \sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\alpha_i} + \sum_{j=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\beta_j} \right). \quad (3.1)$$

Obviously,  $\sum_{j=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\beta_j}$  can be obtained according to  $L_S$ .

$$\sum_{j=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\beta_j} = \frac{1}{6} \times (3n - 2) + \frac{1}{4} \times (n + 2) = \frac{9n + 2}{12}. \quad (3.2)$$

Next, we focus on computing  $\sum_{i=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\alpha_i}$ . Let

$$P_{L_A}(x) = \det(xI - L_A) = x(x^{4n-1} + a_1x^{4n-2} + \dots + a_{4n-2}x + a_{4n-1}), a_{4n-1} \neq 0.$$

Based on Vieta's theorem of  $P_{L_A}(x)$ , we can exactly get the following equation:

$$\sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\alpha_i} = \frac{(-1)^{4n-2} a_{4n-2}}{(-1)^{4n-1} a_{4n-1}}. \quad (3.3)$$

For the sake of convenience, let  $M_s$  be used to express the  $s$ -th order principal minors of matrix  $A$ , and  $m_s = \det M_s$  is recorded. We can get  $m_1 = 2, m_2 = 4, m_3 = 8$ .

And

$$m_s = 4m_{s-1} - 4m_{s-2}, 4 \leq s \leq 4n,$$

by further induction, we have

$$m_s = 2^s.$$

In this way, we can get two theorems.

**Theorem 3.1.**  $(-1)^{4n-1} a_{4n-1} = (4n)2^{4n-1}$ .

*Proof.* Due to the sum of all the principal minors of order  $4n - 1$  of  $L_A$  is  $(-1)^{4n-1} a_{4n-1}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{4n-1} a_{4n-1} &= \sum_{s=1}^{4n} \det L_A[s] \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{4n} \det \begin{pmatrix} M_{s-1} & 0 \\ 0 & U_{4n-s} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{4n} \det M_{s-1} \cdot \det U_{4n-s}, \end{aligned}$$



Therefore, we can have

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{4n-2} a_{4n-2} &= \sum_{1 \leq s < t \leq 4n} \det M_{s-1} \cdot \det N_{t-s-1} \cdot \det U_{4n-t} \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq s < t \leq 4n} (t-s) 2^{t-s-1} \cdot \det m_{s-1} \cdot m_{4n-t} \\ &= \frac{(4n-1)(4n)(4n+1)2^{4n-1}}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is over.  $\square$

From the results of Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.2, we can get

$$\sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\alpha_i} = \frac{(-1)^{4n-2} a_{4n-2}}{(-1)^{4n-1} a_{4n-1}} = \frac{16n^2 - 1}{12}, \quad (3.4)$$

where the eigenvalues of  $L_A$  are  $0 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 \leq \alpha_3 \leq \dots \leq \alpha_{4n}$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** Suppose  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  be the dicyclobutadieno derivative of phenylenes and the graph  $L_n$  be obtained from the transformation of the graph  $L_n^{6,4,4}$ .

$$Kf(L_n) = \frac{32n^3 + 18n^2 + 2n}{3}.$$

*Proof.* Substituting Eqs (3.5) and (3.6) into (3.4), the Kirchhoff index of  $L_n$  can be expressed

$$\begin{aligned} Kf(L_n) &= 2(4n) \left( \sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\alpha_i} + \sum_{j=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\beta_j} \right) \\ &= (8n) \left( \frac{9n+2}{12} + \frac{(4n+1)(4n-1)}{12} \right) \\ &= \frac{32n^3 + 18n^2 + 2n}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

The result is as desired.  $\square$

The Kirchhoff index of  $L_n$  from  $L_1$  to  $L_{12}$  is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The Kirchhoff indices of  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{12}$ .

$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf(\mathcal{G})$	$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf(\mathcal{G})$	$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf(\mathcal{G})$
$L_1$	17.3	$L_5$	1486.7	$L_9$	8268.0
$L_2$	110.7	$L_6$	2524.0	$L_{10}$	24457.3
$L_3$	344.0	$L_7$	3957.3	$L_{11}$	30454.7
$L_4$	781.3	$L_8$	5850.7	$L_{12}$	37360.0

Next, we will further consider the Wiener index of  $L_n$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** Let  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  be the dicyclobutadieno derivative of [n]phenylenes, and the graph  $L_n$  be obtained from the transformation of the graph  $L_n^{6,4,4}$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Kf(L_n)}{W(L_n)} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

*Proof.* Consider  $d_{st}$  for all vertices. For the sake of convenience, we divide the vertices of the graph into the following five categories:

**Case 1.** Vertex 1 of  $L_n$ :

$$g_1(i) = 1 + 2\left(\sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k\right).$$

**Case 2.** Vertex  $4j - 3$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ ,  $i = 4j - 3$ :

$$g_2(i) = 1 + 2\left(\sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-i} k\right).$$

**Case 3.** Vertex  $4j - 2$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ ,  $i = 4j - 2$ :

$$g_3(i) = 1 + 2\left(\sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-i} k\right).$$

**Case 4.** Vertex  $4j - 1$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ ,  $i = 4j - 1$ :

$$g_4(i) = 1 + 2\left(\sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-i} k\right).$$

**Case 5.** Vertex  $4j$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ ,  $i = 4j$ :

$$g_5(i) = 1 + 2\left(\sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-i} k\right).$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} W(L_n) &= \frac{4g_1(i) + 2 \sum_{i=4j-3} g_2(i) + 2 \sum_{i=4j-2} g_3(i) + 2 \sum_{i=4j-1} g_4(i) + 2 \sum_{i=4j} g_5(i)}{2} \\ &= \frac{4(1 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{4n-1} k) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^n [1 + 2(\sum_{k=1}^{4j-3} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-4j+2} k)]}{2} \\ &+ \frac{2 \sum_{j=1}^n [2 + 2(\sum_{k=1}^{4j-2} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-4j+1} k)]}{2} \\ &+ \frac{2 \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} [1 + 2(\sum_{k=1}^{4j-1} k + \sum_{k=1}^{4n-4j} k)]}{2} \\ &= \frac{128n^3 + 48n^2 - 5n + 3}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the above results of the Kirchhoff index and the Wiener index. We can get following equation when  $n$  tends to infinity:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Kf(L_n)}{W(L_n)} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

The result is as desired. □





*Proof.* Let  $s_p = \det F_p$ , then we have  $s_1 = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $s_2 = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $s_3 = \frac{2}{15}$ ,  $s_4 = \frac{4}{75}$ , and

$$\begin{cases} s_{4p} = \frac{4}{5}s_{4p-1} - \frac{4}{25}s_{4p-2}; \\ s_{4p+1} = \frac{4}{5}s_{4p} - \frac{4}{25}s_{4p-1}; \\ s_{4p+2} = s_{4p+1} - \frac{1}{5}s_{4p}; \\ s_{4p+3} = \frac{4}{5}s_{4p+2} - \frac{1}{5}s_{4p+1}. \end{cases}$$

After further simplification, the transformation form of the above formula is obtained.

$$\begin{cases} s_{4p} = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^p, 1 \leq p \leq n; \\ s_{4p+1} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^i, 0 \leq p \leq n-1; \\ s_{4p+2} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^i, 0 \leq p \leq n-1; \\ s_{4p+3} = \frac{1}{15} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^i, 0 \leq p \leq n-1. \end{cases}$$

Similarly, we have  $t_1 = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $t_2 = \frac{4}{15}$ ,  $t_3 = \frac{2}{15}$ ,  $t_4 = \frac{4}{75}$ , and

$$\begin{cases} t_{4p} = \frac{2}{5}t_{4p-1} - \frac{2}{5}t_{4p-2}; \\ t_{4p+1} = \frac{4}{5}t_{4p} - \frac{4}{25}t_{4p-1}; \\ t_{4p+2} = \frac{4}{5}t_{4p+1} - \frac{4}{25}t_{4p}; \\ t_{4p+3} = t_{4p+2} - \frac{1}{5}t_{4p+1}. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, the transformation form of the above formula is obtained.

$$\begin{cases} t_{4p-4} = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^p, 1 \leq p \leq n; \\ t_{4p-3} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^p, 0 \leq p \leq n-1; \\ t_{4p-2} = \frac{4}{15} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^p, 0 \leq p \leq n-1; \\ t_{4p-1} = \frac{2}{15} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^p, 0 \leq p \leq n-1. \end{cases}$$

Since the  $(-1)^{4n-1}b_{4n-1}$  is the total of all the principal minors of order  $4n-1$  of  $L_A$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{4n-1}b_{4n-1} &= \sum_{i=2}^{4n} \det NL_A[i] + s_{4n} + t_{4n} \\ &= \frac{1}{45}(38n-8)\left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^n. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of Theorem 4.1 completed. □

**Theorem 4.2.**  $(-1)^{4n-2}b_{4n-2} = \frac{1}{3240}(14520n^3 + 4599n^2 - 1496n + 3)\left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^n$ .

*Proof.* We observe that the sum of all the principal minors of order  $4n$  in  $\mathcal{L}_A$  is  $(-1)^{4n-2}b_{4n-2}$ , then

$$(-1)^{4n-2}b_{4n-2} = \sum_{1 \leq s < t \leq 4n} \det \mathcal{L}_A[s, t] \cdot f_{s-1} \cdot f'_{4n-t}. \quad (4.2)$$















Hence

$$(-1)^{4n-2}b_{4n-2} = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 + E_4 = \frac{1}{3240}(14520n^3 + 4599n^2 - 1496n + 4)\left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^n.$$

The proof of Theorem 4.2 completed.  $\square$

Let  $0 \leq \xi_1 \leq \xi_2 \leq \xi_3 \leq \dots \leq \xi_{3n+2}$  are the eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{L}_A$ . We can get the following exact equation:

$$\sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\xi_i} = \frac{(-1)^{4n-2}b_{4n-2}}{(-1)^{4n-1}b_{4n-1}} = \frac{1}{72} \left( \frac{14520n^3 + 4599n^2 - 1496n + 8}{38n - 8} \right).$$

**Theorem 4.3.** Set  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  be the derivative [n]phenylenes, and the expression of the multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff index is

$$Kf^*(L_n) = \left( \frac{29040n^3 + 8996n^2 - 3198n + 8}{144} \right).$$

*Proof.* Together with Eq (4.7) and Theorems 4.1 and 4.2, one can get

$$\begin{aligned} Kf^*(L_n) &= 2(19n - 4) \left( \sum_{i=2}^{4n} \frac{1}{\xi_i} + \sum_{i=1}^{4n} \frac{1}{\gamma_i} \right) \\ &= 2(19n - 4) \left[ \frac{1}{72} \left( \frac{14520n^3 + 4599n^2 - 1496n + 8}{38n - 8} \right) + \frac{21n - 1}{6} \right] \\ &= \left( \frac{29040n^3 + 8996n^2 - 3198n + 8}{144} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The result as desired.  $\square$

The multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff indices of  $L_n$  from  $L_1$  to  $L_{12}$ , see Table 2.

Then we want to calculate the Gutman index of  $L_n$ .

**Table 2.** The multiplicative degree-Kirchhoff indices of  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{12}$ .

$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf^*(\mathcal{G})$	$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf^*(\mathcal{G})$	$\mathcal{G}$	$Kf^*(\mathcal{G})$
$L_1$	241.98	$L_5$	26659.15	$L_9$	151875.4
$L_2$	1818.86	$L_6$	45675.81	$L_{10}$	207691.9
$L_3$	5940.68	$L_7$	72077.4	$L_{11}$	275733.2
$L_4$	13817.44	$L_8$	107073.9	$L_{12}$	357209.6

**Theorem 4.4.** Suppose that  $L_n^{6,4,4}$  is the dicyclobutadieno derivative of [n]phenylenes and the graph  $L_n$  is obtained from the transformation of the graph  $L_n^{6,4,4}$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Kf^*(L_n)}{Gut(L_n)} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

*Proof.* Consider  $d_{ij}$  for all vertices. We divide the vertices of  $L_n$  into the following four categories.

**Case 1.** Vertex  $4i - 2$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ :

$$f_{4i-2} = \frac{10}{3}n(56n^2 - 24n + 37).$$

**Case 2.** Vertex  $4i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ :

$$f_{4i-1} = \frac{10}{3}n(152n^2 - 48n + 29).$$

**Case 3.** Vertex  $4i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ :

$$f_{4i} = \frac{10}{3}n(140n^2 - 48n + 43).$$

**Case 4.** Vertex  $4i - 3$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) of  $L_n$ :

$$f_{4i-3} = \frac{10}{3}n(136n^2 - 6n + 71).$$

According to Eq (1.3), the Gutman index of  $L_n$  is

$$\begin{aligned} Gut(L_n) &= \frac{f_{4i} + f_{4i-1} + f_{4i-2} + f_{4i-3}}{2} \\ &= \frac{10n}{3}(242n^2 - 63n + 61). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, combining with  $Kf^*(L_n)$  and  $Gut(L_n)$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Kf^*(L_n)}{Gut(L_n)} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

The result as desired. □

Finally, we want to know the complexity of  $L_n$ .

**Theorem 4.5.** For the graph  $L_n$ , we have

$$\tau(L_n) = 2^{3n+2} \cdot 3^{3n-2}.$$

*Proof.* Based on Lemma 2.4, we can get

$$\prod_{i=1}^{8n} d_i \prod_{i=2}^{4n} \alpha_i \prod_{j=1}^{4n} \beta_j = 2(19n - 4) \cdot \tau(L_n).$$

Note that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{8n} d_i = 3^4 \cdot 4^{2n} \cdot 5^{6n-4}.$$

$$\prod_{i=2}^{4n} \alpha_i = \frac{25}{9} \cdot (38n - 8) \cdot \left(\frac{4}{125}\right)^n.$$

$$\prod_{j=1}^{4n} \beta_j = \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{6}{5}\right)^{3n-2}.$$

Hence,

$$\tau(L_n) = 2^{3n+2} \cdot 3^{3n-2}.$$

The proof is over. □

Thus, we can get the complexity of  $L_n$  from  $W_1$  to  $W_8$  which are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3.** The complexity of  $W_1, W_2 \cdots W_8$ .

$\mathcal{G}$	$\tau(\mathcal{G})$	$\mathcal{G}$	$\tau(\mathcal{G})$
$W_1$	96	$W_5$	208971104256
$W_2$	20736	$W_6$	45137758519296
$W_3$	4478976	$W_7$	9749755840167936
$W_4$	967458816	$W_8$	2105947261476274176

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, the linear chain network with  $n$  hexagons and  $2n - 1$  squares is considered. We have devoted ourselves to calculating the (multiplicative degree) Kirchhoff index, Wiener index, Gutman index, and complexity. In the meantime, we deduced that the ratio of the (multiplicative degree) Kirchhoff index to the (Gutman) Wiener index is nearly a quarter when  $n$  tends to infinity. These rules also apply to some other graphs.

### Use of AI tools declaration

The authors declare they have not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

### Acknowledgments

This research was funded by the Anhui Provincial Natural Science Research Major Project (No. 2022AH040317) and the Anhui Provincial 2023 Action Project for Cultivating Young and Middle Aged Teachers in Universities (No. DTR2023095).

### Conflict of interest

No potential conflicts of interest were reported by the authors.

### References

1. J. A. Bondy, U. S. R. Murty, *Graph theory with applications*, Macmillan Press Ltd., 1976.
2. F. R. K. Chung, *Spectral graph theory*, American Mathematical Society, 1997.
3. H. Wiener, Structural determination of paraffin boiling points, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **69** (1947), 17–20. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja01193a005>
4. A. Dobrynin, Branchings in trees and the calculation of the Wiener index of a tree, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **41** (2000), 119–134.
5. R. C. Entringer, D. E. Jackson, D. A. Snyder, Distance in graphs, *Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal*, **26** (1976), 283–296.
6. L. H. Feng, X. M. Zhu, W. J. Liu, Wiener index, Harary index and graph properties, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **223** (2017), 72–83. <https://doi.org/72-83.10.1016/j.dam.2017.01.028>

7. A. Abiad, B. Brimkov, A. Erey, On the Wiener index, distance cospectrality and transmission-regular graphs, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **230** (2017), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dam.2017.07.010>
8. Y. P. Mao, Z. Wang, I. Gutman, Nordhaus-Gaddum-type results for the Steiner Wiener index of graphs, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **219** (2017), 167–175. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dam.2016.11.014>
9. A. R. Ashrafi, A. Ghalavand, Ordering chemical trees by Wiener polarity index, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **313** (2017), 301–312. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2017.06.005>
10. M. Crepnjak, N. Tratnik, The Szeged index and the Wiener index of partial cubes with applications to chemical graphs, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **309** (2017), 324–333. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2017.04.011>
11. A. Mohajeri, P. Manshour, M. Mousaei, A novel topological descriptor based on the expanded Wiener index: applications to QSPR/QSAR studies, *Iran. J. Math. Chem.*, **8** (2017), 107–135.
12. I. Gutman, Selected properties of the schultz molecular topological index, *Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences*, **34** (1994), 1087–1089.
13. D. J. Klein, Resistance-distance sum rules, *Croat. Chem. Acta*, **75** (2002), 633–649.
14. D. J. Klein, O. Ivanciuc, Graph cyclicity, excess conductance, and resistance deficit, *J. Math. Chem.*, **30** (2001), 271–287. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1015119609980>
15. H. Y. Chen, F. J. Zhang, Resistance distance and the normalized Laplacian spectrum, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, **155** (2007), 654–661. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dam.2006.09.008>
16. L. H. Feng, I. Gutman, G. H. Yu, Degree Kirchhoff index of unicyclic graphs, *Match* (2013).
17. J. Huang, S. H. Li, On the normalised Laplacian spectrum, degree-Kirchhoff index and spanning trees of graphs, *B. Aust. Math. Soc.*, **91** (2015), 353–367. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0004972715000027>
18. Y. L. Yang, T. Y. Yu, Graph theory of viscoelasticities for polymers with starshaped, multiple-ring and cyclic multiple-ring molecules, *Macromol. Chem. Phys.*, **186** (1985), 609–631.
19. G. H. Yua, L. H. Feng, On connective eccentricity index of graphs, *MATCH Commun. Math. Comput. Chem.*, **69** (2013), 611–628.
20. X. L. Ma, B. Hong, The normalized Laplacians, degree-Kirchhoff index and the spanning trees of cylinder phenylene chain, *Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds*, **41** (2021), 1159–1179. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2019.1665553>
21. L. Lei, X. Y. Geng, S. Li, Y. Peng, Y. Yu, On the normalized Laplacian of Mobius phenylene chain and its applications, *Int. J. Quantum Chem.*, **119** (2019), e26044. <https://doi.org/10.1002/qua.26044>
22. U. Ali, Y. Ahmad, S. A. Xu, X. F. Pan, On Normalized Laplacian, Degree-Kirchhoff Index of the Strong Prism of Generalized Phenylenes, *Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds*, **42** (2022), 6215–6232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2021.1977351>
23. X. Y. Geng, L. Yu, On the Kirchhoff index and the number of spanning trees of linear phenylenes chain, *Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds*, **42** (2022), 4984–4993. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2021.1923536>

24. J. B. Liu, Z. Y. Shi, Y. H. Pan, J. D. Cao, Computing the Laplacian spectrum of linear octagonal-quadrilateral networks and its applications, *Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds*, **42** (2020), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2020.1748666>
25. C. Liu, Y. H. Pan, J. P. Li, On the Laplacian spectrum and Kirchhoff index of generalized phenylenes, *Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds*, **41** (2019), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10406638.2019.1703765>
26. I. Gutman, B. Mohar, The quasi-Wiener and the Kirchhoff indices coincide, *J. Chem. Inf. Model.*, **36** (1996), 982–985.



AIMS Press

©2024 the Author(s), licensee AIMS Press. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)