

## ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATOM-BOND SUM-CONNECTIVITY AND SUM-CONNECTIVITY INDICES

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*A b s t r a c t.* The atom-bond sum-connectivity index *ABS* is a recently introduced vertex-degree-based graph invariant, defined as the sum over all pairs of adjacent vertices  $u, v$  of the term  $\sqrt{(d_u + d_v - 2)/(d_u + d_v)}$ , where  $d_u$  is the degree of the vertex  $u$ . A much older such invariant, the sum-connectivity index *SC*, is defined via  $\sqrt{1/(d_u + d_v)}$ . We study the difference between *ABS* and *SC* and establish various bounds for it, in terms several vertex-degree-based graph invariants.

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### 1. Introduction

In this paper we consider simple graphs (i.e., graphs without directed, weighted, and multiple edges, and without self-loops). Let  $G$  be such a graph, and assume that it is connected. Its vertex set is  $\mathbf{V}(G)$  and its edge set is  $\mathbf{E}(G)$ . The order and size of  $G$  are  $|\mathbf{V}(G)| = n$  and  $|\mathbf{E}(G)| = m$ , respectively. The degree  $d_u$  of the vertex  $u \in \mathbf{V}(G)$  is the number of vertices adjacent to  $u$ . The maximum and minimum vertex degree of the graph  $G$  are denoted by  $\Delta$  and  $\delta$ , respectively. The edge connecting the vertices  $u$  and  $v$  will be denoted by  $uv$ .

In the present-days literature, a large number of vertex-degree-based graph invariants (usually referred to as “topological indices”) are being considered [12, 23, 24, 16]. Among them we mention here the first Zagreb index [6, 13, 14]

$$M_1 = M_1(G) = \sum_{u \in \mathbf{V}(G)} (d_u)^2 = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (d_u + d_v) \quad (1.1)$$

the connectivity index (Randić index) [17, 20, 21] and its sum-connectivity variant [7, 19, 27]

$$R = R(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_u d_v}}, \quad SC = SC(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \quad (1.2)$$

the atom-bond connectivity index [1, 9] and its sum-connectivity counterpart [3, 4, 11]

$$ABC = ABC(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{\frac{d_u + d_v - 2}{d_u d_v}} \quad (1.3)$$

$$ABS = ABS(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{\frac{d_u + d_v - 2}{d_u + d_v}} \quad (1.4)$$

and the harmonic index [5, 10, 25]

$$H = H(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{2}{d_u + d_v}. \quad (1.5)$$

All graph invariants listed in Eqs. (1.1)–(1.5) have similar algebraic forms. One may, therefore, expect that there exist relations between them. Indeed, many such relations have already been established, see e.g. [2, 8, 11, 15, 22, 26, 28]. The *ABS*-index was introduced quite recently [3], and its properties have not yet been fully determined. In this paper we examine the relations between *ABS* and sum-connectivity index (*SC*). In particular, we establish lower and upper bounds for the difference  $ABS - SC$  in terms of first Zagreb and harmonic indices.

In what follows, we denote  $ABS(G) - SC(G)$  by  $\Xi(G)$ , i.e.,

$$\Xi = \Xi(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}}.$$

## 2. Elementary relation

Let  $P_n$  be the  $n$ -vertex path.

**Remark 2.1.** Let  $G$  be a connected graph, different from  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ , and  $P_3$ . Then

$$ABS(G) > SC(G) \quad \text{and} \quad \Xi(G) > 0.$$

PROOF. Because  $P_1$  has no edges, it is  $ABS(P_1) = SC(P_1) = 0$  and thus  $\Xi(P_1) = 0$ . The two vertices of  $P_2$  have degrees 1, implying  $d_u + d_v - 2 = 0$  and  $ABS(P_2) = 0$ . Therefore,  $ABS(P_2) < SC(P_2)$  and  $\Xi(P_2) < 0$ . Both edges of  $P_3$  connect vertices of degree 1 and 2, implying  $d_u + d_v - 2 = 1$ . Therefore,  $ABS(P_3) = SC(P_3)$  and  $\Xi(P_3) = 0$ .

All other graphs possess at least one edge for which  $d_u + d_v - 2 > 1$ .

## 3. Main results

**Theorem 3.1.** If  $G$  is a graph with  $m$  edges, then

$$\Xi(G) \leq \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\delta}(M_1(G) - m)}.$$

PROOF. By the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, we acquire

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(G) &= \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \\ &\leq \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1)^2 \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{d_u + d_v}} \\ &< \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (d_u + d_v - 2 + 1 - 2\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2}) \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{d_u + d_v}} \\ &< \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (d_u + d_v - 1) \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{d_u + d_v}} \leq \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\delta}(M_1(G) - m)}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.2.** If  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  edges, then

$$(\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1)^2 \left( \frac{H(G)}{2} + \frac{m(m-1)}{2\Delta} \right) \leq \Xi(G)$$

$$\leq (\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1)^2 \left( \frac{H(G)}{2} + \frac{m(m-1)}{2\delta} \right).$$

The equality holds if and only if  $G$  is regular.

PROOF. From the definition of  $\Xi(G)$  we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(G)^2 &= \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1)^2}{d_u + d_v} \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{uv \neq rs \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \right) \left( \frac{\sqrt{d_r + d_s - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_r + d_s}} \right) \\ &\leq \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{(\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1)^2}{d_u + d_v} \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{uv \neq rs \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} \right) \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} \right) \\ &= (\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1)^2 \left( \frac{H(G)}{2} + \frac{m(m-1)}{2\delta} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(G)^2 &= \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1)^2}{d_u + d_v} \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{uv \neq rs \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1)}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \right) \left( \frac{(\sqrt{d_r + d_s - 2} - 1)}{\sqrt{d_r + d_s}} \right) \\ &\geq \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{(\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1)^2}{d_u + d_v} \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{uv \neq rs \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{(\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1)}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} \right) \left( \frac{(\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1)}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} \right) \\ &= (\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1)^2 \left( \frac{H(G)}{2} + \frac{m(m-1)}{2\Delta} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The equalities are true if and only if  $G$  is a regular graph.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $n \geq 3$  vertices and  $m$  edges. Then,*

$$\frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} < \Xi(G) < m\sqrt{2\Delta - 2}.$$

PROOF. Lower bound:

$$\Xi(G) = \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} > \frac{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v}}.$$

Clearly,  $2\delta \leq d_u + d_v \leq 2\Delta$  and therefore,

$$\frac{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v}} > \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}}.$$

Upper bound:

$$\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} < \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2},$$

and by the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} &< \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} 1} \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (d_u + d_v - 2)} \\ &\leq m\sqrt{2\Delta - 2}. \end{aligned}$$

By rearranging, we arrive at the required result.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  edges and  $p$  pendent vertices. Then,*

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}}(m - p) + \frac{\sqrt{\delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \Delta}}p \\ &\leq \Xi(G) \leq \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}}(m - p) + \frac{\sqrt{\Delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta}}p. \end{aligned}$$

PROOF.

$$\Xi(G) = \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u, d_v \neq 1}} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} + \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u = 1}} \frac{\sqrt{d_v - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + d_v}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u, d_v \neq 1}} \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} + \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u = 1}} \frac{\sqrt{\Delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta}} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}}(m - p) + \frac{\sqrt{\Delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \delta}}p
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Xi(G) &= \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u, d_v \neq 1}} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} + \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u = 1}} \frac{\sqrt{d_v - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + d_v}} \\
&\geq \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u, d_v \neq 1}} \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} + \sum_{\substack{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G) \\ d_u = 1}} \frac{\sqrt{\delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \Delta}} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}}(m - p) + \frac{\sqrt{\delta - 1} - 1}{\sqrt{1 + \Delta}}p
\end{aligned}$$

Equality holds if and only if  $d_u + d_v = 2\Delta = 2\delta$ .

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  edges. Then,*

$$\Xi(G) \leq m \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} \right).$$

*The equality holds if and only if  $G$  is regular.*

**PROOF.** By the definition of  $\Xi$  and from the Cauchy–Scharwz inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\Xi(G)^2 &= \left( \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \right)^2 \\
&\leq m \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} \right)^2 = m^2 \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}} \right)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

By simplifying, we get the required result. Equality holds if  $G$  is regular.

**Lemma 3.1** (Pólya–Szegő inequality). *Let  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  be positive real numbers for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , such that  $a \leq a_i \leq A$  and  $b \leq b_i \leq B$ . Then*

$$\sum_{i=1}^m b_i^2 \sum_{i=1}^m a_i^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \sqrt{\frac{AB}{ab}} + \sqrt{\frac{ab}{AB}} \right)^2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^m a_i b_i \right)^2.$$

Equality holds if and only if

$$\rho = \frac{A/a}{A/a + B/b} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma = \frac{B/b}{A/a + B/b}$$

are integers,  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_\rho = a$ ,  $a_{\rho+1} = a_{\rho+2} = \dots = a_m = A$  and  $b_1 = b_2 = \dots = b_\sigma = B$ ,  $b_{\sigma+1} = b_{\sigma+2} = \dots = b_m = b$ .

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $m$  edges and  $\delta, \Delta > 1$ . Then*

$$\Xi(G) \geq \frac{m \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} \right)}{\frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}} \right)}.$$

The equality holds if and only if  $G$  is regular graph.

**PROOF.** Setting

$$a_i = \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}}, \quad b_i = 1, \quad A = \frac{\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\delta}}, \quad a = \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}},$$

and  $B = b = 1$  in Lemma 3.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \left( \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}} \right)^2 \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} 1 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}} \right)^2 \Xi(G)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly,  $2\delta \leq d_u + d_v \leq 2\Delta$  and so,

$$\begin{aligned} & m^2 \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\delta - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{2\Delta}} \right)^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{\delta(2\delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\delta}}{\sqrt{\Delta(2\Delta - 2)} - \sqrt{\Delta}}} \right)^2 \Xi(G)^2. \end{aligned}$$

By simplifying we get the required result. Equality holds if  $G$  is regular graph.

**Lemma 3.2.** [18] *Let  $a = (a_i)$  and  $b = (b_i)$  be sequences of non-negative real numbers and positive real numbers, respectively, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . For any real number  $r$  with  $r \geq 1$  or  $r \leq 0$ ,*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i^r \geq \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i} \right)^r.$$

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $m$  edges. Then,*

$$\Xi(G) \leq \sqrt{m(\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1) \left( \frac{m\sqrt{2\Delta - 2}}{2\delta} - \frac{H(G)}{2} \right)}.$$

PROOF. Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2}}{d_u + d_v} - \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{1}{d_u + d_v} &\leq \frac{m\sqrt{2\Delta - 2}}{2\delta} - \frac{H(G)}{2} \\ \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v})^2} &\leq \frac{m\sqrt{2\Delta - 2}}{2\delta} - \frac{H(G)}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

Setting  $r = 2$ ,  $a_i = \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1$ , and  $b_i = 1/\sqrt{d_u + d_v}$  in Lemma 3.2 we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v})^2} \\ \geq \sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} (\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1) \left( \frac{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{\sqrt{d_u + d_v}}}{\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{uv \in \mathbf{E}(G)} \frac{\sqrt{d_u + d_v - 2} - 1}{(\sqrt{d_u + d_v})^2} \geq \left( \frac{\Xi(G)^2}{m(\sqrt{2\Delta - 2} - 1)} \right) \quad (3.2)$$

from equation (3.1) and (3.2) we arrive at the result.



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