



## Relations between Ordinary and Multiplicative Degree-Based Topological Indices

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**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges, and sequence of vertex degrees  $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_n > 0$ . If vertices  $i$  and  $j$  are adjacent, we write  $i \sim j$ . Denote by  $\Pi_1$ ,  $\Pi_1^*$ ,  $Q_\alpha$  and  $H_\alpha$  the multiplicative Zagreb index, multiplicative sum Zagreb index, general first Zagreb index, and general sum-connectivity index, respectively. These indices are defined as  $\Pi_1 = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i^2$ ,  $\Pi_1^* = \prod_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j)$ ,  $Q_\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha$  and  $H_\alpha = \sum_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j)^\alpha$ . We establish upper and lower bounds for the differences  $H_\alpha - m \left( \Pi_1^* \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}}$  and  $Q_\alpha - n \left( \Pi_1 \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}}$ . In this way we generalize a number of results that were earlier reported in the literature.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with vertex set  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and edge set  $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . Further, let  $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_n > 0$ ,  $d_i = d(i)$ , and  $d(e_1) \geq d(e_2) \geq \dots \geq d(e_m)$  be sequences of vertex and edge degrees, respectively. Throughout the paper we will use the following (standard) notation:  $\Delta = d_1$ ,  $\Delta_1 = d_2$ ,  $\delta = d_n$ ,  $\delta_1 = d_{n-1}$ ,  $\Delta_{e_1} = d(e_1) + 2$ ,  $\Delta_{e_2} = d(e_2) + 2$ ,  $\delta_{e_1} = d(e_m) + 2$ ,  $\delta_{e_2} = d(e_{m-1}) + 2$ . If the vertices  $i$  and  $j$  are adjacent, we write  $i \sim j$ . As usual,  $L(G)$  denotes a line graph of  $G$ .

Two vertex-degree based topological indices, the first and the second Zagreb index,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ , are defined as [19, 22, 23]

$$M_1 = M_1(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2 \quad \text{and} \quad M_2 = M_2(G) = \sum_{i \sim j} d_i d_j.$$

For details and further references on these indices see [4, 5, 20, 37].

As shown in [37], the first Zagreb index can be also expressed as

$$M_1 = \sum_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j). \tag{1}$$

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Bearing in mind that for the edge  $e$  connecting the vertices  $i$  and  $j$ ,

$$d(e) = d_i + d_j - 2,$$

the index  $M_1$  can also be considered as an edge-degree based topological index, since according to (1) holds [32]

$$M_1 = \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2).$$

A so-called forgotten topological index,  $F$ , is defined as [13] (see also [14]):

$$F = F(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^3.$$

By analogy to  $M_1$ , the invariant  $F$  can be written in the following way [32]

$$F = \sum_{i \sim j} (d_i^2 + d_j^2) = \sum_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j)^2 - 2M_2.$$

The general sum-connectivity index, denoted by  $H_\alpha$ , is defined as [51]:

$$H_\alpha = H_\alpha(G) = \sum_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j)^\alpha,$$

where  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary real number. It can be easily observed that

$$H_\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha, \quad H_0 = m.$$

Hence,  $H_\alpha$  can be considered as edge-degree-based topological index as well. It can be easily verified that  $M_1 = H_1$ ,  $\chi = H_{-\frac{1}{2}}$  (sum-connectivity index introduced in [50]),  $H = 2H_{-1}$  (harmonic index defined in [11]).

The general first Zagreb index,  $Q_\alpha$ , is defined as [29]:

$$Q_\alpha = Q_\alpha(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha,$$

where  $\alpha$  is an arbitrary real number. Obviously,  $Q_2 = M_1$ ,  $Q_3 = F$ ,  $Q_{-1} = ID$  and  $Q_{-1/2} = {}^0R$ , where

$$ID = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{d_i}$$

is the inverse degree index [7, 8, 11], whereas

$${}^0R = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_i}}$$

is the zeroth-order Randić index [26, 28].

Multiplicative versions of topological indices were proposed in 2010 [40, 41], whereas the first and second multiplicative Zagreb indices, denoted by  $\Pi_1$  and  $\Pi_2$ , respectively, were first considered in a paper [18] published in 2011, and were promptly followed by numerous additional studies [9, 10, 15, 24, 30, 39, 42, 44, 46, 47]. These indices are defined as:

$$\Pi_1 = \Pi_1(G) = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i^2, \quad \Pi_2 = \Pi_2(G) = \prod_{i \sim j} d_i d_j.$$

One year later, the multiplicative sum-Zagreb index,  $\Pi_1^*$ , was introduced [10], defined as

$$\Pi_1^* = \Pi_1^*(G) = \prod_{i \sim j} (d_i + d_j).$$

$\Pi_1^*$  can be also be viewed as an edge-degree-based topological index since

$$\Pi_1^*(G) = \prod_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2).$$

It should be mentioned that much earlier, the product of vertex degrees was considered by Narumi and Katayama [35, 36], which essentially is the oldest multiplicative Zagreb-type index.

Further details on the multiplicative Zagreb indices can be found in the recent papers [1, 25, 43, 45] and the references quoted therein.

In this paper, we are interested in establishing upper and lower bounds for the differences

$$H_\alpha - m \left( \Pi_1^* \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \quad \text{and} \quad Q_\alpha - n \left( \Pi_1 \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}}.$$

By achieving this goal, we will generalize a number of results that were earlier reported in the literature. In particular, in [39], the following inequalities were shown that:

$$2m - n \left( \Pi_1 \right)^{\frac{1}{2n}} \geq 0, \tag{2}$$

$$M_1 - n \left( \Pi_1 \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq 0, \tag{3}$$

$$M_2 - m \left( \Pi_2 \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \geq 0. \tag{4}$$

In [44] it was proven that

$$M_1 - m \left( \Pi_1^* \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \geq 0 \tag{5}$$

whereas in [12] that

$$F + 2M_2 - m \left( \Pi_1^* \right)^{\frac{2}{m}} \geq 0. \tag{6}$$

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section we recall some analytical inequalities for real number sequences that will be used in the subsequent considerations.

Let  $a_i = (a_i)$  and  $b_i = (b_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ , be positive real number sequences with the properties

$$0 < r_1 \leq a_i \leq R_1 < +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < r_2 \leq b_i \leq R_2 < +\infty.$$

In [2] (see also [33]) the following inequality was proven

$$\left| p \sum_{i=1}^p a_i b_i - \sum_{i=1}^p a_i \sum_{i=1}^p b_i \right| \leq p^2 \gamma(p) (R_1 - r_1) (R_2 - r_2), \tag{7}$$

where

$$\gamma(p) = \frac{1}{p} \left\lfloor \frac{p}{2} \right\rfloor \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p} \left\lfloor \frac{p}{2} \right\rfloor \right) = \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{(-1)^{p+1} + 1}{2p^2} \right).$$

For the positive real number sequence  $a = (a_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ , the following inequality was proven in [48] (see also [27])

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^p \sqrt{a_i}\right)^2 \leq (p-1) \sum_{i=1}^p a_i + p \left(\prod_{i=1}^p a_i\right)^{1/p} \quad (8)$$

For the sequence of positive real numbers  $a = (a_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ , with the property  $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_p > 0$ , in [6] the following was proven

$$\sum_{i=1}^p a_i - p \left(\prod_{i=1}^p a_i\right)^{1/p} \geq (\sqrt{a_1} - \sqrt{a_p})^2 \quad (9)$$

Before we proceed, let us define one special class of  $d$ -regular graphs  $\Gamma_d$  (see [38]). Let  $N(i)$  be a set of all neighbors of the vertex  $i$ , i.e.,  $N(i) = \{k | k \in V, k \sim i\}$ . Let  $d(i, j)$  be the distance between the vertices  $i$  and  $j$ . Denote by  $\Gamma_d$  a set of all  $d$ -regular graphs,  $1 \leq d \leq n-1$ , with diameter 2, and  $|N(i) \cap N(j)| = d$  for  $i \neq j$ .

### 3. Main results

In the next theorem, we establish upper and lower bounds for the difference  $Q_\alpha - n(\Pi_1)^{\alpha/2n}$ , in terms of the number of vertices and minimal and maximal vertex degrees.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n \geq 2$  vertices. Then, for any real  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,*

$$\left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq Q_\alpha - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}} \leq n^2 \gamma(n) \left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \quad (10)$$

If  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\left(\delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq Q_\alpha - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}} \leq n^2 \gamma(n) \left(\delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \quad (11)$$

Equalities on the right-hand sides hold if and only if  $G$  is regular. Equalities on the left-hand sides hold if and only if  $d_2 = \dots = d_{n-1} = \sqrt{d_1 d_n}$ .

*Proof.* For  $p = n, a_i = b_i = d_i^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, R_1 = R_2 = \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, r_1 = r_2 = \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, \alpha \geq 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the inequality (7) becomes

$$n \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq n^2 \gamma(n) \left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2,$$

i.e.,

$$nQ_\alpha - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq n^2 \gamma(n) \left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \quad (12)$$

For  $p = n, \alpha \geq 0, a_i = d_i^\alpha, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the inequality (8) transforms into

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq (n-1) \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha + n \left(\prod_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha\right)^{1/n},$$

i.e.,

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq (n-1)Q_\alpha + n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}} \quad (13)$$

From (12) and (13) the inequality (10) is obtained.

Equality in (13) holds if and only if  $d_1 = \dots = d_n$ , so the equality on the right-hand side of (10) holds if and only if  $G$  is regular.

For  $p = n, \alpha \geq 0, a_i = d_i^\alpha, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the inequality (9) becomes

$$\sum_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha - n \left( \prod_{i=1}^n d_i^\alpha \right)^{1/n} \geq \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2,$$

i.e.,

$$Q_\alpha - n (\Pi_1)^{\frac{\alpha}{2n}} \geq \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2, \tag{14}$$

which coincides with the left-hand side of (10).

Equality in (14) holds if and only if  $d_2 = \dots = d_{n-1} = \sqrt{d_1 d_n}$ . Equality on the left-hand side of (10) holds under same condition.

Inequalities (14) can be verified in an analogous manner.  $\square$

In a similar way, we arrive at the following:

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices. If  $n \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^\alpha + \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq Q_\alpha - (n-1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \\ &\leq \Delta^\alpha + (n-1)^2 \gamma(n-1) \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

If  $n \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^\alpha + \left( \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq Q_\alpha - (n-1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \\ &\leq \Delta^\alpha + (n-1)^2 \gamma(n-1) \left( \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Equalities on the right-hand sides hold if and only if  $\Delta_1 = d_2 = \dots = d_n = \delta$ . Equalities on the left-hand sides hold if and only if  $d_3 = \dots = d_{n-1} = \sqrt{\Delta_1 \delta}$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices. If  $n \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$\delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} + \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq Q_\alpha - (n-1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\delta^2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \leq \delta^\alpha + (n-1)^2 \gamma(n-1) \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2.$$

If  $n \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} + \left( \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq Q_\alpha - (n-1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\delta^2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \leq \delta^\alpha + (n-1)^2 \gamma(n-1) \left( \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2.$$

Equalities on the right-hand side of the above inequalities hold if and only if  $\Delta = d_1 = \dots = d_{n-1} = \delta_1$ , and on the left-hand side if and only if  $\Delta_1 = d_2 = \dots = d_{n-2} = \sqrt{\Delta \delta_1}$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices. If  $n \geq 4$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^\alpha + \delta^\alpha + \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq Q_\alpha - (n-2) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2 \delta^2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \\ &\leq \Delta^\alpha + \delta^\alpha + (n-2)^2 \gamma(n-2) \left( \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

If  $n \geq 4$  and  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^\alpha + \delta^\alpha + \left(\delta_1^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_1^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 &\leq Q_\alpha - (n-2) \left(\frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2 \delta^2}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2(n-1)}} \\ &\leq \Delta^\alpha + \delta^\alpha + (n-2)\gamma(n-2) \left(\delta_1^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_1^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Equalities on the left-hand sides of the above inequalities hold if and only if  $\Delta_1 = d_2 = \dots = d_{n-1} = \delta_1$ , and on the right-hand sides if and only if  $d_3 = \dots = d_{n-2} = \sqrt{\Delta_1 \delta_1}$ .

In the next corollary we point out some inequalities that are obtained from (10) and (11) for some particular values of the parameter  $\alpha$ .

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n \geq 2$  vertices. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(\sqrt[4]{\Delta} - \sqrt[4]{\delta})^2}{\sqrt{\Delta\delta}} &\leq {}^0R - n(\Pi_1)^{-\frac{1}{4n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) \frac{(\sqrt[4]{\Delta} - \sqrt[4]{\delta})^2}{\sqrt{\Delta\delta}}, \\ \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta\delta} &\leq ID - n(\Pi_1)^{-\frac{1}{2n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta\delta}, \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

$$(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2 \leq 2m - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{1}{2n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) (\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2, \tag{16}$$

$$(\Delta - \delta)^2 \leq M_1 - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) (\Delta - \delta)^2, \tag{17}$$

$$\left(\Delta^{\frac{3}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{3}{2}}\right)^2 \leq F - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{3}{2n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) \left(\Delta^{\frac{3}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{3}{2}}\right)^2. \tag{18}$$

**Remark 3.6.** *The left-hand side inequalities in (16) and (17) are stronger than (2) and (3), respectively.*

Since  $2R_{-1} \leq ID$  (see [31]), where  $R_{-1} = \sum_{i \sim j} \frac{1}{d_i d_j}$  is an often used Randić-type index [3, 28], the following corollary of Theorem 3.1 is valid:

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n \geq 2$  vertices. Then*

$$2R_{-1} - n(\Pi_1)^{-\frac{1}{2n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta\delta},$$

with equality if and only if  $G$  is regular.

Since  $F \geq 2M_2$ , based on the right part of (18) the following result is obtained.

**Corollary 3.8.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n \geq 2$  vertices. Then*

$$2M_2 - n(\Pi_1)^{\frac{3}{2n}} \leq n^2\gamma(n) \left(\Delta^{\frac{3}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{3}{2}}\right)^2,$$

with equality if and only if  $G$  is regular.

Let  $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_{n-1} > \mu_n = 0$  be the Laplacian eigenvalues values of the graph  $G$  [16, 17, 34]. Then the Kirchhoff index,  $Kf$ , is defined as [21] (see also [52])

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

**Corollary 3.9.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices. If  $n \geq 2$  then

$$Kf(G) \geq -1 + (n - 1) \left( n (\Pi_1)^{-\frac{1}{2n}} + \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta \delta} \right). \tag{19}$$

If  $n \geq 3$ , then

$$Kf(G) \geq \frac{n - 1 - \Delta}{\Delta} + (n - 1) \left( (n - 1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2(n-1)}} + \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta_1} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta_1 \delta} \right). \tag{20}$$

Equality in (19) holds if and only if  $G \cong K_n$  or  $G \cong K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$  when  $n$  is even, or  $G \in \Gamma_d$ . Equality in (20) holds if and only if  $G \cong K_n$ , or  $G \cong K_{\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}}$  for even  $n$ , or  $G \cong K_{1, n-1}$ , or  $G \in \Gamma_d$ .

*Proof.* In [49], the following inequality for the Kirchhoff index was reported:

$$Kf(G) \geq -1 + (n - 1) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{d_i} = -1 + (n - 1)ID. \tag{21}$$

The inequality (19) is obtained from (21) and the left part of (15).

For  $\alpha = -1$ , from Theorem 3.2 the following is obtained:

$$ID - (n - 1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1}{\Delta^2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2(n-1)}} \geq \frac{1}{\Delta} + \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta_1} - \sqrt{\delta})^2}{\Delta_1 \delta}.$$

According to the above and inequality (21), inequality (20) is obtained.  $\square$

In the next theorem we establish lower and upper bounds for the difference  $H_\alpha - m (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}}$  depending on the parameters  $m, \Delta_{e_1}$ , and  $\delta_{e_1}$ .

**Theorem 3.10.** Let  $G$  be a simple graph with  $m \geq 1$  edges. If  $\alpha \geq 0$  then

$$\left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq H_\alpha - m (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \tag{22}$$

If  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\left( \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq H_\alpha - m (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left( \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2.$$

Equalities on the right-hand sides of the above inequalities are attained if and only if  $L(G)$  is regular. Equalities on the left-hand sides hold if and only if  $\Delta_{e_2} = d(e_2) + 2 = \dots = d(e_{m-1}) + 2 = \delta_{e_2} = \sqrt{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}}$ .

*Proof.* For  $p = m, \alpha \geq 0, a_i = b_i = (d(e_i) + 2)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, R_1 = R_2 = \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, r_1 = r_2 = \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}, i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , the inequality (7) becomes

$$m \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2,$$

i.e.,

$$mH_\alpha - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \tag{23}$$

For  $p = m, \alpha \geq 0, a_i = (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha, i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , the inequality (8) transforms into

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq (m - 1) \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha + m \left( \prod_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha \right)^{\frac{1}{m}},$$

i.e.,

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \leq (m - 1)H_\alpha + m (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}}. \tag{24}$$

The right-hand side of (22) is obtained from (23) and (24), .

Equality in (24) holds if and only if  $\Delta_{e_1} = d(e_1) + 2 = \dots = d(e_m) + 2 = \delta_{e_1}$ . Therefore, equality on the right-hand side of (22) holds if and only if  $L(G)$  is regular.

For  $p = m, \alpha \geq 0, a_i = (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha, a_1 = \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha, a_m = \delta_{e_1}^\alpha, i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , the inequality (9) becomes

$$\sum_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha - m \left( \prod_{i=1}^m (d(e_i) + 2)^\alpha \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \geq \left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2,$$

i.e.,

$$H_\alpha - m (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \geq \left( \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2,$$

which is just the left-hand side of (22). Equality in the above inequality, and therefore on the left-hand side of (22), holds if and only if  $\Delta_{e_2} = d(e_2) + 2 = \dots = d(e_{m-2}) + 2 = \delta_{e_2} = \sqrt{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}}$ .

For the case  $\alpha \leq 0$  the inequalities are proved in a similar way.  $\square$

The same procedure as in the case of Theorem 3.10 can be applied to deduce the following result.

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $m$  edges. If  $m \geq 2$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \left( \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq H_\alpha - (m - 1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1^*}{\Delta_{e_1}} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m-1}} \\ &\leq \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + (m - 1)^2 \gamma(m - 1) \left( \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

If  $m \geq 2$  and  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \left( \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq H_\alpha - (m - 1) \left( \frac{\Pi_1^*}{\Delta_{e_1}} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m-1}} \\ &\leq \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + (m - 1)^2 \gamma(m - 1) \left( \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Equalities on the right-hand sides hold if and only if  $\Delta_{e_2} = d(e_2) + 2 = \dots = d(e_{m-1}) + 2 = \delta_{e_1}$ , and on the left-hand sides if and only if  $d(e_3) + 2 = \dots = d(e_m) + 2 = \delta_{e_2} = \sqrt{\Delta_{e_2} \delta_{e_1}}$ .

**Theorem 3.12.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $m$  edges. If  $m \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \left( \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 &\leq H_\alpha - (m - 2) \left( \frac{\Pi_1^*}{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m-2}} \\ &\leq \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \delta_{e_1}^\alpha + (m - 2)^2 \gamma(m - 2) \left( \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$



If  $m \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \left(\delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 &\leq H_\alpha - (m-2) \left(\frac{\Pi_1^*}{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m-2}} \\ &\leq \Delta_{e_1}^\alpha + \delta_{e_1}^\alpha + (m-2)^2 \gamma(m-2) \left(\delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_2}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Equalities on the right-hand sides hold if and only if  $\Delta_{e_2} = d(e_2) + 2 = \dots = d(e_{m-1}) + 2 = \delta_{e_2}$ , and on the left-hand sides if and only if  $d(e_3) + 2 = \dots = d(e_{m-2}) + 2 = \sqrt{\Delta_{e_2} \delta_{e_2}}$ .

Since  $2\delta \leq \delta_{e_1} \leq \Delta_{e_1} \leq 2\Delta$ , the following corollary of Theorem 3.10 is valid.

**Corollary 3.13.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $m \geq 1$  edges. If  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then*

$$H_\alpha - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq 2^\alpha m^2 \gamma(m) \left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2.$$

If  $\alpha \leq 0$ , then

$$H_\alpha - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq 2^\alpha m^2 \gamma(m) \left(\delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2.$$

In both cases equalities hold if and only if  $G$  is regular.

We now state some inequalities resulting from Theorem 3.10 and Corollary 3.13, pertaining to particular values of the parameter  $\alpha$ , namely for  $\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\alpha = -1$ ,  $\alpha = 1$ , and  $\alpha = 2$ , respectively.

**Corollary 3.14.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $m \geq$  edges. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\left(\sqrt[4]{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt[4]{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2}{\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}}} \leq \chi - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{-\frac{1}{2m}} &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \frac{\left(\sqrt[4]{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt[4]{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2}{\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}}} \\ &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \frac{\left(\sqrt[4]{\Delta} - \sqrt[4]{\delta}\right)^2}{\sqrt{2\Delta \delta}}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\left(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2}{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}} \leq \frac{1}{2} H - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{-\frac{1}{m}} &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \frac{\left(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2}{\Delta_{e_1} \delta_{e_1}} \\ &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \frac{\left(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta}\right)^2}{2\Delta \delta}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2 \leq M_1 - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2 \\ &\leq 2m^2 \gamma(m) \left(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta}\right)^2, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1}\right)^2 - 2M_2 \leq F - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{2}{m}} &\leq m^2 \gamma(m) \left(\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1}\right)^2 - 2M_2 \\ &\leq 4m^2 \gamma(m) (\Delta - \delta)^2 - 2M_2. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

**Remark 3.15.** *Left inequality of (25) is stronger than (5), and left inequality of (26) is stronger than (6).*

As  $F \geq 2M_2$ , from (26) we obtain:

**Corollary 3.16.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $m \geq 1$  edges. Then

$$2F - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{2}{m}} \geq (\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1})^2 ,$$

$$4M_2 - m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{2}{m}} \leq m^2\gamma(m) (\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1})^2 \leq 4m^2\gamma(m)(\Delta - \delta)^2 .$$

Equalities hold if and only if  $G$  is regular.

In the next theorem we establish a relationship between  $H_\alpha$  and  $\Pi_2$ .

**Theorem 3.17.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m \geq 1$  edges. Then for any  $\alpha \geq 0$

$$H_\alpha - \frac{n^\alpha}{m^{\alpha-1}} (\Pi_2)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq m^2\gamma(m) \left(\Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 \leq 2^\alpha m^2\gamma(m) \left(\Delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \delta^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 . \tag{27}$$

Equality on the left-hand side of (27) holds if and only if  $L(G)$  is regular, and on the right-hand side if and only if  $G$  is regular.

*Proof.* According to

$$n = \sum_{i \sim j} \frac{d_i + d_j}{d_i d_j} \geq m \left( \prod_{i \sim j} \frac{d_i + d_j}{d_i d_j} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} = m \frac{\left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}}{\left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}} ,$$

we have that

$$m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \leq n \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} . \tag{28}$$

If  $\alpha \geq 0$  is an arbitrary real number, then

$$m^\alpha \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq n^\alpha \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} ,$$

i.e.,

$$m \left(\Pi_1^*\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \leq \frac{n^\alpha}{m^{\alpha-1}} \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} .$$

From the above and the right-hand side of (22), the left-hand side of inequality (27) follows.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.18.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m \geq 1$  edges. Then

$$M_1 - n \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \leq m^2\gamma(m) \left(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}}\right)^2 \leq 2m^2\gamma(m) \left(\sqrt{\Delta} - \sqrt{\delta}\right)^2 ,$$

$$F - \frac{n^2}{m} \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{2}{m}} \leq m^2\gamma(m) (\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1})^2 - 2M_2 \leq 4m^2\gamma(m)(\Delta - \delta)^2 - 2M_2 ,$$

$$4M_2 - \frac{n^2}{m} \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{2}{m}} \leq m^2\gamma(m) (\Delta_{e_1} - \delta_{e_1})^2 \leq 4m^2\gamma(m)(\Delta - \delta)^2 .$$

Equalities on the first right-hand sides of the above inequalities are attained if and only if  $G$  is regular or biregular. Equalities on the second right-hand sides are attained if and only if  $G$  is regular.

In a similar manner as in the case of Theorem 3.17, the following result can be proven.

**Theorem 3.19.** Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m \geq 1$  edges. Then for any real  $\alpha \leq 0$

$$H_\alpha - \frac{n^\alpha}{m^{\alpha-1}} \left(\Pi_2\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{m}} \geq \left(\delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \Delta_{e_1}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\right)^2 . \tag{29}$$

Equality holds if and only if  $G$  is a regular or a biregular graph.

For  $\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\alpha = -1$ , we have the following special cases of Theorem 3.19.

**Corollary 3.20.** *Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m \geq 1$  edges. Then*

$$\chi - \frac{m\sqrt{m}}{\sqrt{n}} (\Pi_2)^{-\frac{1}{2m}} \geq \frac{(\sqrt[4]{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt[4]{\delta_{e_1}})^2}{\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}\delta_{e_1}}},$$

$$\frac{1}{2}H - \frac{m^2}{n} (\Pi_2)^{-\frac{1}{m}} \geq \frac{(\sqrt{\Delta_{e_1}} - \sqrt{\delta_{e_1}})^2}{\Delta_{e_1}\delta_{e_1}}.$$

**Remark 3.21.** *It can be easily verified that according to (4) and (28), the following lower bound*

$$M_2 \geq \frac{m^2}{n} (\Pi_1^*)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

*holds for the second Zagreb index  $M_2$ .*

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