



# Combination of distance and symmetry in some molecular graphs



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## ABSTRACT

Suppose  $G$  is a connected graph or a union of connected graphs and  $\Gamma$  is a subgroup of  $Aut(G)$ . The modified Wiener index of  $G$  with respect to  $\Gamma$  can be defined as follows:

$$\hat{W}_{\Gamma}(G) = \frac{|V(G)|}{2|\Gamma|} \sum_{u \in V(G)} \sum_{g \in \Gamma} d(u, g(u)).$$

In this article, this graph invariant for the cycle  $C_n$  with respect to all subgroups of  $Aut(C_n)$  is computed. As consequences, the modified Wiener indices of some molecular graphs like (3, 6)- and (5, 6)-fullerenes with respect to a subgroup of their symmetry groups are computed. Some open questions are also presented.

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## 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper all graphs are assumed to be simple and connected or disconnected with isomorphic components. A chemical graph is a simple graph in which the vertices are atoms and edges are the chemical bonds. The name “chemical graph” used in literature after pioneering work of Balaban [3]. A graph  $G$  is called 3-connected, if it has more than three vertices and remains connected whenever fewer than three vertices are removed. A (3, 6)-fullerene is a 3-connected planar cubic graph whose faces are only triangles and hexagons [1]. Note that by our definition, a (3, 6)-fullerene has to be a polyhedral graph and so it does not have a pair of fused triangles. This is the definition that all chemists would accept for a (3, 6)-fullerene. For the main mathematical properties of fullerenes, we refer to the famous book of Fowler and Manolopoulos [7] and the interesting paper [8].

A topological index is a graph invariant applicable in chemistry. The Wiener index is the oldest distance-based topological index. To define, we assume that  $G$  is a chemical graph and  $x, y$  are two vertices in  $G$ . The distance between  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $d(x, y)$ , is the length of a shortest path connecting them. The sum of all distances between distinct vertices of  $G$  is called the Wiener index of  $G$  and denoted by  $W(G)$  [23]. In the same paper, Wiener was introduced another graph invariant nowadays named “Wiener polarity index”. This index is defined as the number of unordered pairs of vertices  $\{u, v\}$  of  $G$  such that the shortest distance  $d(u, v)$  between  $u$  and  $v$  is 3. For more information on this topic we refer the interested readers to [6,20].

In literature, there are hundreds published papers devoted to the mathematical properties of the Wiener index. Hriňáková et al. [12], established congruence relations for some families of graphs with a tree-like structure, whose vertices and edges

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represent some graphs of prescribed type and congruence. Lin [17] characterized the trees with the maximal Wiener index in  $\text{MT}_{n,k}$ , where  $\text{MT}_{n,k}$  denotes the set of all trees of order  $n$  with exactly  $k$  vertices of maximum degree. A vertex of degree  $\geq 3$  in a tree  $T$  is called a branching vertex. Lin [19] also characterized the extremal Wiener index of trees with a given number of vertices of even degree and in [18], the lower and upper bounds of the Wiener index of an  $n$ -vertex tree with given number of branching vertices were obtained. Knor et al. [15] proved that the Wiener index of any bipartite graph  $G$  is always greater than the Wiener index of  $\text{con}(G)$ , where the common neighborhood graph  $\text{con}(G)$  has the same vertex set as  $G$  and two vertices of  $\text{con}(G)$  are adjacent if they have a common neighbor in  $G$ . Kelenc et al. [14], considered some other modifications of the Wiener index into account

Before we can proceed further in our investigation, some algebraic concepts were fixed. Graovac and Pisanski [11], proposed a distance-symmetry-based graph invariant for a chemical graph by considering a subgroup of its full automorphism group. They named this topological index “Modified Wiener Index”. To define, we first notice that the largest possible symmetry group for a given molecule  $M$  is the full automorphism group of the chemical graph of  $M$ . Suppose  $G$  is a connected chemical graph and  $\Gamma$  is a subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(G)$ . Then the modified Wiener index of  $G$  with respect to  $\Gamma$  can be defined as follows:

$$\hat{W}_\Gamma(G) = \frac{|V(G)|}{2|\Gamma|} \sum_{u \in V(G)} \sum_{g \in \Gamma} d(u, g(u)).$$

If we define  $\delta(g) = \frac{1}{|V(G)|} \sum_{u \in V(G)} d(u, g(u))$  then  $\hat{W}_\Gamma(G) = \frac{|V(G)|^2}{2|\Gamma|} \sum_{g \in \Gamma} \delta(g)$ .

The present authors [16], presented a representation theoretical method for computing modified Wiener index of a graph. In [2], the authors applied the same approach to calculate the modified Wiener index of some graph operations. Ghorbani and Klačar [10] extended the method of orthogonal cuts for computing modified Wiener index of some fullerene patches.

Throughout this paper  $C_n$  denotes a cycle of length  $n$ . The cyclic group of order  $n$ , the dihedral group of order  $2n$  and the symmetric group on  $n$  symbols are denoted by  $Z_n, D_{2n}$  and  $S_n$ , respectively. Our calculations are done with the aid of GAP [22] and Sage [21]. Suppose  $H$  is a group and  $\mathbb{C}$  denotes the complex field. A function  $\gamma : H \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a class function, if  $\gamma(x) = \gamma(g^{-1}xg)$ , for each  $x, g \in H$ . Our other notations are standard and can be taken from the standard books of graph and group theory.

**2. Main results**

In this section, the modified Wiener indices of cycles, complete and star graphs under all subgroups of the full automorphism group are computed. We first compute a formula for the modified Wiener index of a non-connected graph with non-isomorphic components.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Suppose  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  are disjoint non-isomorphic graphs and  $G = G_1 \cup \dots \cup G_n$ . Then,*

$$\delta(g) = \frac{1}{|V(G_1 \cup \dots \cup G_n)|} \sum_{i=1}^n |V(G_i)| \delta(g_i).$$

**Proof.** We first prove the case of  $n = 2$ . To do this, we assume that  $G$  and  $H$  are two disjoint and non-isomorphic graphs. Then  $\text{Aut}(G \cup H) \cong \text{Aut}(G) \times \text{Aut}(H)$  and so we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(g) &= \frac{1}{|V(G \cup H)|} \sum_{x \in V(G \cup H)} d(x, g(x)) \\ &= \frac{1}{|V(G \cup H)|} \left[ \sum_{x \in V(G)} d(x, g(x)) + \sum_{x \in V(H)} d(x, g(x)) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{|V(G \cup H)|} \left[ \sum_{x \in V(G)} d(x, g_1(x)) + \sum_{x \in V(H)} d(x, g_2(x)) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{|V(G \cup H)|} [|V(G)|\delta(g_1) + |V(H)|\delta(g_2)]. \end{aligned}$$

We now apply an inductive argument to complete the proof.  $\square$

We now calculate the modified Wiener index of complete graphs. To proceed, we assume that  $\Gamma$  is a subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(K_n) \cong S_n$ . Then  $\hat{W}_\Gamma(K_n) = \frac{n}{2|\Gamma|} \sum_{g \in \Gamma} \sum_{x \in V(K_n)} d(x, g(x)) = \frac{n}{2} (n - t)$ , where  $t$  denotes the number of orbits of  $\Gamma$  in its natural action on vertices. On the other hand, we assume that  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are conjugate subgroups of  $\text{Aut}(K_n) \cong S_n$  with  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  orbits, respectively. Then obviously  $t_1 = t_2$  and so their modified Wiener indices are the same. In the next lemma, we prove that in general the modified Wiener indices of conjugate subgroups of  $\text{Aut}(G)$  are the same.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Suppose  $G$  is a graph and  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \subseteq \text{Aut}(G)$ . If  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are conjugate then  $\hat{W}_{\Gamma_1}(G) = \hat{W}_{\Gamma_2}(G)$ .*

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