

# Some results on augmented Zagreb index of some trees and unicyclic graphs

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ABSTRACT. The augmented Zagreb index (AZI) of a graph  $G$  is defined as

$$AZI(G) = \sum_{uv \in E(G)} \left( \frac{d_u d_v}{d_u + d_v - 2} \right)^3,$$

where  $E(G)$  and  $d_u$  denote set of edges of  $G$  and degree of the vertex  $u$  in  $G$  respectively. In this paper we establish some general results and bounds of AZI for certain unicyclic graphs and their corresponding chemical representation. We also obtain some results pertaining to AZI of certain trees.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph with edge set  $E(G)$  and vertex set  $V(G)$  where  $|E(G)| = m$  and  $|V(G)| = n$  respectively. The degree of a vertex  $v$  in  $G$  is the number of immediate edges adjacent to  $v$  and denoted by  $d_v$ . Any vertex having degree one is termed as pendent vertex. A graph is said to be connected if there exists at least one path between any pair of vertices in  $G$ . Again any graph  $G$  having maximum vertex degree 4 is said to be a chemical or molecular graph which are associated with various chemical compounds and their structural formulae in chemistry. In a molecular graph, vertices and edges are represented by atoms and the chemical bonds between two atoms of their carbon-hydrogen skeleton respectively.

According to IUPAC definition, topological index or molecular descriptor is a numerical value associated with chemical constitution for correlation of chemical structure with various physio-chemical properties (viz. boiling point, enthalpy of vaporization, stability and so on) or biological activities [12]. These molecular descriptors of shape or structure of a molecule play a very important role in complex experiments for analyzing the properties and activities of molecules, specially in QSPR and QSAR investigations. Among these molecular descriptors, degree-based topological indices occupy its own place. These indices are also studied as graph invariant as these values are being preserved under graph automorphism. So far, a lot of topological indices have been introduced using different structural properties for their calculation viz. Estrada index of protein folding [2] or energy of a graph [6] is defined in terms of eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix of  $G$ ; Wiener index [16] is based on distance between any two vertices of the graph; Randić index [14], Narumi-Katayama index [7], Atom-Bond Connectivity (ABC) index [3] etc., are based on degree of vertices whereas Hosoya Index [9], Zagreb coindices [10] etc., are calculated in terms of edges in its complement or non-incident edges of  $G$ . Another vertex-degree based graph invariant called augmented Zagreb index (AZI) and introduced by Furtula

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Received: 19.05.2018. In revised form: 02.12.2018. Accepted: 09.12.2018

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. 05C10, 05C35, 05C75.

Key words and phrases. *AZI, Tree, Unicyclic graph.*

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et al., [4] is defined as

$$AZI(G) = \sum_{uv \in E(G)} \left( \frac{d_u d_v}{d_u + d_v - 2} \right)^3,$$

which is proven to be a very helpful predictive measure in the study of heat of formation in heptanes and octanes. In a comparative study by Gutman and Tošović [8], AZI emerged as more prominent index in case of normal boiling point and standard heat of formation of octane isomers. A sizeable number of research papers have been published with upper and lower bounds of ABC [1] [13], AZI [15] values for connected graphs, trees, unicyclic and bicyclic graphs etc. and for almost all types of standard graphs with characterization of extremal cases.

In this paper, initially we obtain some bounds of AZI of  $n$ -vertex unicyclic graphs along with a few general formulae for certain unicyclic graphs and its chemical representation. Furthermore, we find some AZI results of certain kind of trees and hydrocarbons viz., alkanes, alkenes etc. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section we present AZI of certain unicyclic graphs and unicyclic chemical graphs. Then in section 3, we establish some result of AZI of certain trees.

## 2. AZI OF CERTAIN UNICYCLIC GRAPHS AND UNICYCLIC CHEMICAL GRAPHS

A graph  $G(n; m)$  is said to be unicyclic if they have equal number of vertices and edges i.e.,  $n = m$  and it is denoted by  $U_n$ . The length of the cycle of such a unicyclic graph is called its girth. A unicyclic chemical graph  $U_n^*$  is a unicyclic graph such that degree of any vertex of it doesn't exceed 4.

Let us consider a unicyclic graph  $U_n^p$  obtained from attaching  $p$  pendent vertices to each vertex of the cycle of length  $n$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** [5] *Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $m \geq 2$  edges and minimum degree  $\delta$ . Then*

$$AZI(G) \geq \frac{m\delta^6}{8(\delta - 1)^3},$$

*with equality holds if and only if  $G$  is a  $\delta$ -regular graph or every edge of  $G$  has at least one end vertex with degree two when  $\delta = 2$ .*

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $U$  be a unicyclic connected graph of order  $n$  where  $n \geq 2$  and minimum degree  $\delta \geq 2$ . Then*

$$AZI(G) \geq \frac{n\delta^6}{8(\delta - 1)^3},$$

*equality holds iff  $U = C_n$ .*

*Proof.* The bound is obvious from the above theorem and using the fact that in a unicyclic graph,  $m = n$ . Clearly for equality we must have  $\delta = 2$  and for  $U = C_n$ ,  $\delta = 2$  and also  $AZI(C_n) = 8n$ . Hence the result.  $\square$

Now we present the following lemmas without proof.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $A_{ij} = \left( \frac{ij}{i+j-2} \right)$ , then*

- i)  $A_{ij}$  is decreasing for  $j \geq 2$ ,
- ii)  $A_{2j} = 2$  for  $j \geq 2$ ,
- iii) If  $j \geq 3$  fixed, then  $A_{ij}$  is increasing for  $i \geq 3$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** [11]  $A_{1\Delta} = \frac{\Delta}{\Delta-1} \leq A_{1i} \leq A_{12} = A_{2j} = 2 < A_{33} = \frac{9}{4} \leq A_{kl} \leq A_{\Delta\Delta} = \frac{\Delta^2}{2\Delta-2}$ , where  $2 \leq i, j \leq \Delta$  and  $3 \leq k \leq l \leq \Delta$ .

Let  $x_{ij}$  denotes the total number of edges in  $G$  joining vertices of degree  $i$  and  $j$  and also  $\bar{i}\bar{j} = A_{ij}^3 = \binom{ij}{i+j-2}^3$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $U^*$  be the unicyclic chemical graph of order  $n$  with  $p$  pendent vertices. Then

$$AZI(U^*) \leq 8n,$$

and equality holds for  $x_{13} = x_{14} = x_{33} = x_{34} = x_{44} = 0$ .

*Proof.* From the above lemmas, we have

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(U^*) &= x_{12}\bar{1}\bar{2} + x_{13}\bar{1}\bar{3} + x_{14}\bar{1}\bar{4} + x_{22}\bar{2}\bar{2} + x_{23}\bar{2}\bar{3} + x_{24}\bar{2}\bar{4} + x_{33}\bar{3}\bar{3} + x_{34}\bar{3}\bar{4} + x_{44}\bar{4}\bar{4} \\ &= x_{13}\bar{1}\bar{3} + (p - x_{12} - x_{13})\bar{1}\bar{4} + 8(x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24}) + x_{33}\bar{3}\bar{3} + x_{34}\bar{3}\bar{4} \\ &\quad + (n - p - x_{22} - x_{23} - x_{24} - x_{33} - x_{34})\bar{4}\bar{4} \\ &= p\bar{1}\bar{4} + (n - p)\bar{4}\bar{4} + (\bar{1}\bar{3} - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{13} + (8 - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{12} + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{22} + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{23} \\ &\quad + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{24} + (\bar{3}\bar{3} - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{33} + (\bar{3}\bar{4} - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{34} \end{aligned}$$

As  $\bar{1}\bar{3} - \bar{1}\bar{4} > 0$ ,  $8 - \bar{1}\bar{4} > 0$ , and  $\bar{3}\bar{4} - \bar{4}\bar{4} < 0$ ,  $\bar{3}\bar{3} - \bar{4}\bar{4} < 0$ , we have

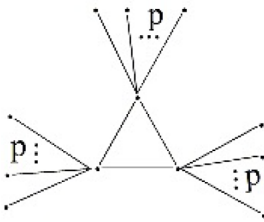
$$\begin{aligned} AZI(U^*) &\leq p\bar{1}\bar{4} + (n - p)\bar{4}\bar{4} + (\bar{1}\bar{3} - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{13} + (8 - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{12} + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} \\ &\leq p\bar{1}\bar{4} + (n - p)\bar{4}\bar{4} + (8 - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{13} + (8 - \bar{1}\bar{4})x_{12} + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} \\ &\leq p\bar{1}\bar{4} + (n - p)\bar{4}\bar{4} + (8 - \bar{1}\bar{4})p + (8 - \bar{4}\bar{4})(n - p) \\ &= 8n. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $AZI(U^*) \leq 8n$  with equality holds for  $x_{13} = x_{14} = x_{33} = x_{34} = x_{44} = 0$ .  $\square$

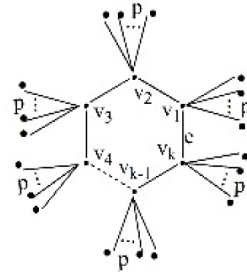
**Theorem 2.4.** For positive integers  $n$  and  $p$  where  $n \geq 3$  and  $p \geq 1$ , the augmented Zagreb index of  $U_n^p$  is given by

$$AZI(U_n^p) = np \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^3 + \frac{n}{8} \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^6.$$

*Proof.* We prove this theorem by method of induction on  $n$ , the number of vertices. The result is clearly true for  $n = 3$  and  $p \geq 1$ . Now let us assume that proposed hypothesis is hold for  $n = k (k \geq 3)$  and  $p \geq 1$ . Graphically  $U_3^p$  and  $U_k^p$  can be represented as follows:



(a) Fig:  $U_3^p$

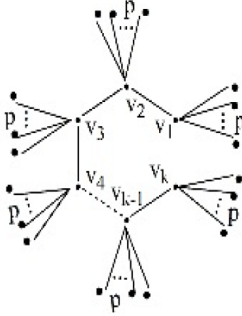
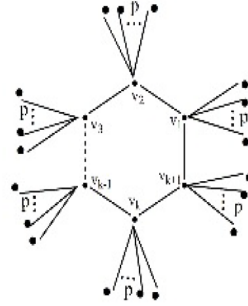


(b) Fig:  $U_k^p$

Let  $v_i$  denotes vertex at  $i$ -th position of the cycle of  $U_k^p$  and  $e$  be the edge incident on vertex  $v_k$  and  $v_1$ . Furthermore, let  $G_1$  be the corresponding graph obtained from  $U_k^p$  by deleting the particular edge  $e$ . Thus we get

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(G_1) &= AZI(U_k^p) - \left( \frac{(p+2)(p+2)}{(p+2)+(p+2)-2} \right)^3 \\ &= kp \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^3 + \frac{(k-1)}{8} \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^6. \end{aligned}$$

Now let  $S$  be the graph in which  $u_1$  is adjacent to  $u_2$  and  $u_3$  together with  $p$  pendent vertices. So, to construct  $U_{k+1}^p$  let us join  $G$  and  $S$  in a way such that  $u_1 = v_{k+1}$ ,  $u_2 = v_1$  and  $u_3 = v_k$  having each of them degree  $p+2$  as follows: Thus we have

(c) Fig: Graph  $G_1$ (d) Fig:  $G \cup S = U_{k+1}^p$ 

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(U_{k+1}^p) &= AZI(G_1) + 2 \left( \frac{(p+2)(p+2)}{(p+2)+(p+2)-2} \right)^3 + p \left( \frac{1 \cdot (p+2)}{1+(p+2)-2} \right)^3 \\ &= kp \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^3 + \frac{(k-1)(p+2)^6}{8(p+1)^3} \\ &= (k+1)p \left( \frac{p+2}{p+1} \right)^3 + \frac{(k+1)(p+2)^6}{8(p+1)^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore our assertion holds for  $n = k+1$  and  $p \geq 1$ . And hence the theorem.  $\square$

In the above theorem if we put  $p = 2$ , then we have  $AZI(U_n^{*2}) = \frac{640n}{27}$ . So for  $p = 2$ , the corresponding chemical compound of the unicyclic chemical graph  $U_n^{*2}$  are cycloalkanes having chemical formula  $C_nH_{2n}$ . An alkyl substituent or branches of alkyl are alkanes having one hydrogen atom less than it. An acyclic alkyl group has the general formula  $C_nH_{2n+1}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ).

If we replace the hydrogen atoms in cycloalkanes by alkyl group or branches of alkyl, it results a new class of unicyclic chemical graph denoted by  $U_n^{*alkyl}$  where  $n$  signifies the total number of carbon atoms. Here we obtain another results of AZI associated with unicyclic chemical graph  $U_n^{*alkyl}$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** For any positive integer  $n$  where  $n \geq 4$ , the augmented Zagreb index of  $U_n^{*alkyl}$  is

$$AZI(U_n^{*alkyl}) = 2n \left( \frac{64}{27} \right) + n \frac{512}{27}.$$

*Proof.* For  $n = 4$  it is easy to verify that the result is true. Let us consider that the result is true for  $n = k$  ( $k \geq 4$ ). Now in  $U_k^{*alkyl}$ , let  $c_i$  denotes carbon atom of the cycle of length  $m$  in  $i$ -th position and  $e$  be the edge joining the end vertices of the cycle  $c_m$  and  $c_1$ . Also let  $G_1$  be the corresponding graph after deleting the edge  $e$  from  $U_k^{*alkyl}$ . Thus we have,

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(G_1) &= AZI(U_k^{*alkyl}) - \left( \frac{4 \cdot 4}{4+4-2} \right)^3 \\ &= 2k \left( \frac{64}{27} \right) + (k-1) \frac{512}{27}. \end{aligned}$$

To construct  $U_{k+1}^{*alkyl}$ , let us introduce another graph  $S$  having vertex  $u_1$  connected to  $u_2$  and  $u_3$  and two other pendent vertices of hydrogen atoms such that  $u_1 = c_{k+1}$ ,  $u_2 = c_1$  and  $u_3 = c_m$  with each of degree 4. Hence we get

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(U_{k+1}^{*alkyl}) &= AZI(G_1) + 2 \left( \frac{4.4}{4+4-2} \right)^3 + 2 \left( \frac{1.4}{1+4-2} \right)^3 \\ &= 2(k+1) \left( \frac{64}{27} \right) + (k+1) \frac{512}{27}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus our assertion is true for  $n = k + 1$ , and hence the result. □

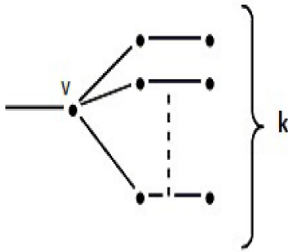
### 3. AZI OF CERTAIN TREES

A graph with no cycle is called acyclic. An undirected graph with vertices  $n$  in which there is exactly one connected path between any two vertices is called a tree and it is denoted by  $T_n$ . Briefly, a tree is a connected acyclic graph.

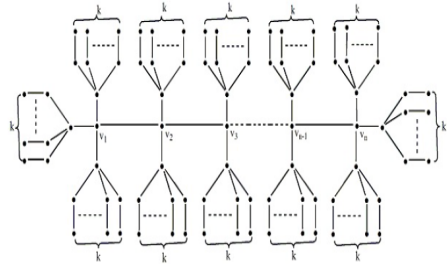
Let  $B_k$  be a branch of tree obtain from attaching  $k$  paths of length 2 to a particular vertex  $v$  so that it has degree  $k + 1$  in  $T_n$ . Let us construct another tree  $T_n^{B_k}$  by joining the branch  $B_k$  three times to the terminal vertex of path  $P_n$  and two times in the remaining vertices both opposite to each other.

**Theorem 3.6.** For positive integers  $n$  and  $k$  where  $n \geq 1$ ,  $k \geq 1$ , the augmented Zagreb index of  $T_n^{B_k}$  is

$$AZI(T_n^{B_k}) = 32k(n+1) + 128(n+1) \left( \frac{k+1}{k+3} \right)^3 + (n-1) \frac{512}{27}.$$



(e) Fig: The branches of  $B_k$



(f) Fig: The tree  $T_n^{B_k}$

*Proof.* In  $T_n^{B_k}$ , there are  $2n+2$  branches of  $B_k$  in which each  $B_k$  again have  $2k$  edges having  $k$  edges with terminal vertex of degree 1 and degree 2 and remaining  $k$  edges with degree 2 and degree  $k + 1$ . Secondly, there is another  $2n + 2$  edges with each edge having end vertex of degree 4 and degree  $k + 1$ . Furthermore in  $P_n$ , the number of edges is equal to  $n - 1$  having each of them of degree 4. Thus we have,

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(T_n^{B_k}) &= (2n+2)k \left( \frac{1.2}{1+2-2} \right)^3 + (2n+2)k \left( \frac{2.(k+1)}{2+(k+1)-2} \right)^3 + (2n+2) \left( \frac{4.(k+1)}{4+(k+1)-2} \right)^3 \\ &\quad + (n-1) \left( \frac{4.4}{4+4-2} \right)^3 \\ &= 32k(n+1) + 128(n+1) \left( \frac{k+1}{k+3} \right)^3 + (n-1) \frac{512}{27}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the theorem.  $\square$

Molecular structures of certain hydrocarbons are closely resemble to trees in graph theory. For example, alkanes, alkenes etc. Alkanes are organic compounds having structural formula  $C_nH_{2n+2}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) and consisting of carbon and hydrogen atoms without any double bonds. Similarly alkenes are saturated hydrocarbons with structural formula  $C_nH_{2n}$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) with two hydrogen atoms less than alkane. Here we will establish some AZI results of these hydrocarbons.

**Theorem 3.7.** *For any positive integer  $n(n \geq 1)$ , the Augmented Zagreb index of  $C_nH_{2n+2}$  (alkane) is given by*

$$AZI(C_nH_{2n+2}) = (2n + 1)\frac{64}{27} + \frac{512}{27}(n - 1).$$

*Proof.* We can prove this result by method of induction on  $n$ . Clearly the result is true for  $n = 1$ . Now suppose the statement is true for  $n = k(k \geq 1)$ , Therefore AZI associated with  $C_kH_{2k+2}$ , is  $AZI(C_kH_{2k+2}) = (2k + 1)\frac{64}{27} + \frac{512}{27}(k - 1)$ .

Let us construct  $C_{k+1}H_{2(k+1)+2}$  in the following ways: Let  $c_i$  denotes the vertex of carbon atom at  $i$ -th position of  $C_kH_{2k+2}$  and  $e$  be the edge incident on  $k$ -th carbon and corresponding end hydrogen vertex. Let  $G_1$  be the graph yielded from  $C_kH_{2k+2}$  by deleting the edge  $e$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(G_1) &= AZI(C_kH_{2k+2}) - \left(\frac{1.4}{1+4-2}\right)^3 \\ &= 2k\frac{64}{27} + \frac{512}{27}(k - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Now connecting  $k$ -th vertex of  $G_1$  with the center of  $K_{1,3}$ , we get the graph structure associated with alkane  $C_{k+1}H_{2k+4}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} AZI(C_{k+1}H_{2k+4}) &= AZI(G_1) + 3\left(\frac{1.4}{1+4-2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{4.4}{4+4-2}\right)^3 \\ &= 2k\frac{64}{27} + \frac{512}{27}(k - 1) + 3\left(\frac{64}{27}\right) + \frac{512}{27} \\ &= [2(k + 1) + 1]\frac{64}{27} + \frac{512}{27}[(k + 1) - 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus our assertion is true for  $n = k + 1$ , and hence the theorem.  $\square$

Similarly for alkenes we can propose the following theorem, which can be proved mutatis mutandis.

**Theorem 3.8.** *For any positive integer  $n(n \geq 2)$ , the augmented Zagreb index of  $C_nH_{2n}$  (alkene having double bond in first position) is*

$$AZI(C_nH_{2n}) = \begin{cases} 4\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{9}{4}\right)^3 & \text{if } n = 2 \\ 3\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{9}{4}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{12}{5}\right)^3 + (n - 3)\left(\frac{512}{27}\right) + (2n + 1)\left(\frac{64}{27}\right) & \text{if } n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Augmented Zagreb index is found to be an important predictor of various physical and chemical properties of a molecule. But the study of this index as a graph invariant receives limited attention. In this paper we study augmented Zagreb index of certain trees and unicyclic graphs. We establish some bounds of AZI for certain unicyclic graphs and their corresponding chemical representation, especially for a new class of unicyclic chemical graph which can be obtained by replacing the hydrogen atoms in cycloalkanes by alkyl group or branches of alkyl.

**Acknowledgement.** The authors thank the anonymous reviewers for their careful reading of our manuscript and their comments and suggestions.

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