



Introduction to hub polynomial of graphs

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Abstract

In this paper we introduce hub polynomial of a connected graph G . The hub polynomial of a connected graph G of order n is the polynomial $H_G(x) = \sum_{i=h(G)}^n h_{G,i} x^i$ where $h_{G,i}$ denotes the number of hub sets of G of cardinality i and $h(G)$ is the hub number of G . We obtain hub polynomial of some special classes of graphs. We study hub roots of some graph G . Also we obtain hub polynomial of join of two graphs. We define H -unique graphs and obtain some family of H -unique graphs.

Keywords

Hub set, Hub Polynomial, Hub roots, H -unique Graphs.

AMS Subject Classification

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1. Introduction

By a graph $G = (V, E)$ we mean a finite ordered graph with no loops and no multiple edges. For graph theoretic terminology we refer [3]. We use the following concepts in this article.

A wheel graph W_n is a graph with n vertices obtained from a cycle C_{n-1} by adding a new vertex and edges joining it to all vertices of the cycle. A double star graph $S_{m,n}$ is a tree obtained from the graph K_2 with two vertices u and v by attaching m pendent edges in u and n pendant edges in v .

The Dutch windmill graph D_3^m is the graph obtained by selecting one vertex in each of m triangles and identifying them.

A lollipop graph $L_{(m,n)}$ is the graph obtained by joining the complete graph K_m to a path graph P_n with a bridge.

A fan graph is denoted by $F_{1,n}$ and is defined as $P_n + K_1$, where P_n is the path graph with n vertices.

The join of two graphs G_1 and G_2 is the graph with vertex set $V(G_1) \cup V(G_2)$ and edge set $E(G_1) \cup E(G_2) \cup \{uv / u \in V(G_1), v \in V(G_2)\}$.

We use following results to prove our main results.

Theorem 1.1. [5] If C_n is the cycle with n vertices then, $h(C_n) = n - 3$.

Theorem 1.2. [5] If P_n is the path with n vertices then, $h(P_n) = n - 2$.

Theorem 1.3. (De Gua's Theorem) If the polynomial lacks $2m$ consecutive terms, that is, the coefficients of these terms vanish, then this polynomial has no less than $2m$ complex roots. If $2m+1$ consecutive terms are missing, then if they are between terms of different signs, the polynomial has no less than $2m$ complex roots, whereas if the missing terms are between terms of the same sign the polynomial has no less than $2m+2$ complex roots.

2. Hub Polynomial of Graphs

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected graph. The concept of hub set is introduced by M Walsh [5]. A subset H of V is called a hub set of G if for any two distinct vertices $u, v \in V - H$, there exists a $u-v$ path P in G such that all the internal vertices of P are in H . The minimum cardinality of a hub set of G is called the hub number of G and is denoted by $h(G)$. In this paper we

introduce the Hub Polynomial of a Graph G of order n as

$$H_G(x) = \sum_{i=h(G)}^n h_{G,i}x^i$$

where $h_{G,i}$ denotes the number of hub sets of cardinality i .

We consider the hub polynomial of the complete graph K_n as a special case since $h(K_n) = 0$. We define it as $H_{K_n}(x) = (1+x)^n - 1$ since it has nC_i hub sets of cardinality i for each $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$.

A root of the hub polynomial is called hub root of G.

From the very definition of hub polynomial we obtain the following results.

Theorem 2.1. *Let G be a connected graph of order n, Then*

1. $h_{G,n} = 1$
2. $h_{G,i} = 0$ if and only if $i \leq h(G) - 1$ or $i \geq n + 1$.
3. $H_G(x)$ has no constant term.
4. If G_1 is any sub graph of G, then $deg(H_G(x)) \geq deg(H_{G_1}(x))$.
5. zero is a root of $H_G(x)$ of multiplicity $h(G)$ for all non complete graph G.
6. Sum of coefficients of $H_G(x) =$ Total number of hub sets of G.
7. Coefficients of x^{n-2} in $H_G(x)$ is nC_2 .

Theorem 2.2. *If G_1 and G_2 are two isomorphic graphs then,*
 $H_{G_1}(x) = H_{G_2}(x)$

Theorem 2.3. *The hub polynomial of the path P_n is*

$$H_{P_n}(x) = \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1} + x^n$$

Proof. Let $P_n = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ be a path .Then we have $h(P_n) = n - 2$. Also every sub set of vertex set of P_n consisting of n-2 elements and all its super sets form a hub set for the path P_n . Hence $h_{P_n, n-2} = \binom{n-2}{n-2}, h_{P_n, n-1} = \binom{n-1}{n-1}$ and $h_{P_n, n} = 1$ □

Theorem 2.4. *The hub polynomial of the cycle C_n is*

$$H_{C_n}(x) = \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1} + x^n$$

Proof. Let $C_n = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, v_1)$ be a cycle .Then we have $h(C_n) = n - 3$. Also every sub set of vertex set of C_n consisting of n-3 elements and all its super sets form a hub set for the cycle C_n . Hence $h_{C_n, n-3} = \binom{n-3}{n-3}, h_{C_n, n-2} = \binom{n-2}{n-2}, h_{C_n, n-1} = \binom{n-1}{n-1}$ and $h_{C_n, n} = 1$ □

Theorem 2.5. *The hub polynomial of the star graph $K_{1,n}$, $n \geq 3$ is*

$$H_{K_{1,n}}(x) = x(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n$$

Proof. Let u be the central vertex of $K_{1,n}$ and v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n are the pendent vertices. Then $\{u\}$ is the unique hub set of cardinality one. Therefore $h(K_{1,n}) = 1$. For $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$, every hub set must include the central vertex u. Hence a hub set of cardinality i can be obtained by

choosing $i - 1$ vertices from v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n . This can be done in $\binom{n}{i-1}$ ways. For $i = n - 1$, there are $\binom{n}{2}$ hub sets which contain u namely $\{u, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-2}\}, \{u, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-3}, v_n\}, \dots, \{u, v_3, v_4, \dots, v_n\}$ and $\binom{n}{1}$ hub set which donot contain the central vertex u , namely $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-1}\}, \dots, \{v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$. Hence there are $(\binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{1})$ hub sets of cardinality $n - 1$. For $i = n$, there are $\binom{n}{1}$ hub sets which contain the central vertex u and one hub set $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ which do not contain u. Hence $H_{K_{1,n}}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \binom{n}{i-1}x^i + (\binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{1})x^{n-1} + (\binom{n}{1} + 1)x^n + x^{n+1} = x(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n$ □

Theorem 2.6. *The hub polynomial of $K_{2,n}$ is*

$$H_{K_{2,n}}(x) = x(x+2)(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n.$$

Proof. Let $\{v_1, v_2\}, \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ are the bipartition of vertex set of $K_{2,n}$. Now $h(K_{2,n}) = 1$ and $\{v_1\}$ and $\{v_2\}$ are the only hub sets of cardinality one.

For $2 \leq i \leq n - 2$ there are

1. $\binom{n}{i-1}$ hub sets which contains v_1 but not v_2
2. $\binom{n}{i-1}$ hub sets which contains v_2 but not v_1
3. $\binom{n}{i-2}$ hub sets which contain both v_1 and v_2

For $i = n, n - 1$, there are

1. $\binom{n}{i-1}$ hub sets which contains v_1 but not v_2
2. $\binom{n}{i-1}$ hub sets which contains v_2 but not v_1
3. $\binom{n}{i-2}$ hub sets which contain both v_1 and v_2
4. $\binom{n}{i}$ hub sets which contain neither v_1 nor v_2

For $i = n + 1$ there are $\binom{n}{1}$ hub sets containing both v_1 and v_2 and one hub set containing v_1 but not v_2 and one hub set containing v_2 but not v_1 . Hence

$$H_{K_{2,n}}(x) = 2x + \sum_{i=2}^{n-2} (\binom{n}{i-1} + \binom{n}{i-1} + \binom{n}{i-2})x^i + ((\binom{n}{n-2}) + \binom{n}{n-2}) + (\binom{n}{n-3}) + \binom{n}{n-1})x^{n-1} + ((\binom{n}{n-1}) + \binom{n}{n-1}) + (\binom{n}{n-2}) + \binom{n}{n})x^n + ((\binom{n}{n}) + \binom{n}{1})x^{n+1} + x^{n+2} = x(x+2)(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n.$$
 □

Theorem 2.7. *The hub polynomial of the double star $S_{m,n}$ is*

$$H_{S_{m,n}}(x) = x^2(1+x)^{m+n} + (2m+2n+1)x^{m+n} + 2x^{m+n+1}$$

Proof. Let $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}, V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ and $\{u, v\}$ be the vertices of $S_{m,n}$ such that u and v are adjacent, every vertices in U are adjacent to u and every vertices in V are adjacent to v. Clearly the hub number of $S_{m,n}$ is two and $\{v_1, v_2\}$ is the only hub set of cardinality 2. For $3 \leq i \leq m + n - 1$, every hub set must contain both the vertices u and v. Hence there are $\binom{m+n}{i-2}$ such hub sets. For $i = m + n$

1. There are $\binom{m+n}{2}$ hub sets which contain both u and v.
2. There are $\binom{m+n}{1}$ hub sets which contains u but not v.
3. There are $\binom{m+n}{1}$ hub sets which contains v but not u.



4. $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is also hub set of cardinality $m + n$

For $i = m + n + 1$ there are $m + n + 2$ hub sets. Hence $H_{S_{m,n}}(x) = x^2 + \binom{m+n}{1}x^3 + \binom{m+n}{2}x^4 + \dots + \binom{m+n}{m+n-3}x^{m+n-1} + (\binom{m+n}{2} + 2m + 2n + 1)x^{m+n} + (m + n + 2)x^{m+n+1} + x^{m+n+2} = x^2(1 + x)^{m+n} + (2m + 2n + 1)x^{m+n} + 2x^{m+n+1}$. \square

Theorem 2.8. The hub polynomial of the lollipop graph $L_{(n,1)}$ is

$$H_{L_{(n,1)}}(x) = 2x + \sum_{r=2, r \neq n-1}^{n+1} (2\binom{n}{r-1} - \binom{n-1}{r-2})x^r + (2\binom{n}{n-2} - \binom{n-1}{n-3} + 1)x^{n-1}$$

Proof. Let v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n be the vertices of the complete graph and let v_1 is adjacent to v . Then $\{v\}$ and $\{v_1\}$ are the only hubsets of cardinality 1. Therefore $h_{L_{(n,1)}} = 2$.

For $1 \leq r \leq n - 2$, every hub set consists of r elements contains either v_1 or v or both. Hence $h_{L_{(n,1),r}} = 2\binom{n}{r-1} - \binom{n-1}{r-2}$.

For $r = n - 1$, there are $2\binom{n}{n-2} - \binom{n-1}{n-3}$ hub sets, which contain either v or v_1 and one hub set $\{v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$ which does not contain v and v_1 .

For $r = n$ there are $n + 1$ hubsets. For $r = n + 1$, there is only one hub set.

Hence

$$H_{L_{(n,1)}}(x) = 2x + \sum_{r=2, r \neq n-1}^{n+1} (2\binom{n}{r-1} - \binom{n-1}{r-2})x^r + (2\binom{n}{n-2} - \binom{n-1}{n-3} + 1)x^{n-1}$$
 \square

Theorem 2.9. The hub polynomial of the lollipop graph $L_{(3,n)}$ is

$$H_{L_{(3,n)}}(x) = (n + 1)x^n + \binom{n+3}{2}x^{n+1} + (n + 3)x^{n+2} + x^{n+3}$$

Proof. Let v_1, v_2, v_3 be the vertices of the complete graph K_3 and u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n be the vertices of the path graph P_n . Let v_1 is adjacent u_1 . Then $h(L(3, n)) = n$ and the hub sets of cardinality n are the subsets of $\{v_1, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ of cardinality n . Hence

$h_{L_{(3,n),n}} = n + 1$. All subsets of $V(L_{(3,n)})$ of cardinality $n + 1, n + 2, n + 3$ are hub sets. Hence the result. \square

Theorem 2.10. The hub polynomial of the Dutch wind mill graph D_3^m is

$$H_{D_3^m}(x) = x(1 + x)^{2m} + x^{2m-2}(x^2 + 2mx + m), m \geq 2.$$

Proof. Let x be the central vertex of D_3^m . Then $\{x\}$ is the only hubset of cardinality 1. For $2 \leq i \leq 2m - 3$ there are exactly $\binom{2m}{i-1}$ hubsets of cardinality i which contains the central vertex x .

For $i = 2m - 2$ there are $\binom{2m}{3}$ hub sets which contains x and there are m hub sets which does not contains x , namely the set of vertices obtained by removing each triangles one by one.

For $i = 2m - 1$, there are $\binom{2m}{2}$ hub sets which contains x and there are $2m$ hub sets $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, 2m - 1\}, \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 2m - 2, 2m\}, \dots, \{2, 3, \dots, 2m\}$ which does not contain x .

For $i = 2m$ there are $\binom{2m}{1}$ hubsets which contain x and one hub set $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, 2m\}$ which does not contain x .

Hence $H_{D_3^m}(x) = x(1 + x)^{2m} + x^{2m-2}(x^2 + 2mx + m)$ \square

Now we find the hub polynomial of a graph construction. Let $C_k = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k, v_1)$ be the cycle with k vertices. Then we denote the graph obtained from C_k by identifying the vertex v_k of C_k with an end vertex of the path graph P_n with n vertices by $C(k, n)$. Here we find the hub polynomial of the graph $C(4, n)$.

Theorem 2.11. The hub polynomial of the graph $C(4, n)$ is $H_{C(4,n)}(x) = (3n + 1)x^n + \binom{n+3}{2}x^{n+1} + (n + 3)x^{n+2} + x^{n+3}$

Proof. Let v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 are the vertices of the cycle and let u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n are the vertices of the path graph P_n . Let v_4 is identified with u_1 . Clearly $h(C(4, n)) = n$. Then the subsets of $V(P_n)$ of cardinality $n - 1$, union with $\{v_i\}, i = 1, 2, 3$ form hub sets of cardinality n . Also $V(P_n)$ is a hubset. Hence $h_{C(4,n),n} = 3n + 1$. All subsets of $V(C(4, n))$ of cardinality $n + 1, n + 2, n + 3$ are hub sets. Hence the result. \square

3. Hub polynomial of join of two graphs.

Theorem 3.1. Let G_1 and G_2 be two connected graphs of order n_1 and n_2 respectively and let $G = G_1 + G_2$. Then hub polynomial of G is

$$H_G(x) = [(1 + x)^{n_1} - 1][(1 + x)^{n_2} - 1] + H_{G_1}(x) + H_{G_2}(x)$$

Proof. If H is a hub set of G_j for $j = 1, 2$ of cardinality i then H is also a hub set of G of cardinality i . Also for every $H_1 \subset V(G_1)$ and $H_2 \subset V(G_2)$, $H_1 \cup H_2$ is a hub set of G of cardinality $i = i_1 + i_2$, where i_j is the cardinality of H_j for $j = 1, 2$. Thus,

$$H_G(x) = [(1 + x)^{n_1} - 1][(1 + x)^{n_2} - 1] + H_{G_1}(x) + H_{G_2}(x)$$
 \square

Corollary 3.2. If $n \geq 3$, the hub polynomial of the wheel graph W_{n+1} is

$$H_{W_{n+1}}(x) = x(1 + x)^n + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + nx^{n-1} + x^n.$$

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.1 since $W_{n+1} = C_n + K_1$ \square

Corollary 3.3. The hub polynomial of the fan graph $F_{1,n}$ is $H_{F_{1,n}}(x) = x(1 + x)^n + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + nx^{n-1} + x^n$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.1 since $F_{1,n} = K_1 + P_n$ \square

4. Hub Roots of a Graph

A root of the hub polynomial of a graph G is called a hub root of G . We denote $Z(H_G(x))$ as the set of all hub roots of G . The number of real hub roots of the graph G is called the H -number of G and is denoted by $H(G)$

Proposition 4.1. Let G be a simple connected graph having exactly one hub root, then $G = K_1$

Proof. Zero is a hub root of multiplicity $h(G)$, of any graph G . Hence $G = K_1$. \square



Proposition 4.2. *If G has exactly two distinct hub roots then $H(G) = 2$.*

Proof. Zero is a hub root of any graph G, and complex roots occur in conjugate pairs. Therefore G has exactly 2 real hub roots and hence $H(G) = 2$ \square

Proposition 4.3.

$$Z(H_{K_n}(x)) = \{ \exp(2\pi ki/n) - 1, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1 \}$$

Proof. The hub polynomial of K_n is $(1+x)^n - 1$. Then its n roots are given by $\exp(2\pi ik/n) - 1$ \square

Proposition 4.4.

$$H(P_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{or } 3 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 0 & \text{or } 2 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Proof. We have $H_{P_n}(x) = \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1} + x^n$. Here the first n-3 terms are absent. Then by De Gua's theorem, $H_{P_n}(x)$ has at least n-3 complex roots when n is odd and n-2 complex roots when n is even. Hence the result. \square

Proposition 4.5.

$$H(C_n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{or } 3 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 0 & \text{or } 2 & \text{or } 4 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Proof. We have $H_{C_n}(x) = \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2} + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1} + x^n$. Here the consecutive n-4 terms are absent. Then by De Gua's theorem $H_{C_n}(x)$ has at least n-4 complex roots when n is even and n-3 complex roots when n is odd. Hence the result. \square

Proposition 4.6.

$$H(K_{1,n}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{or } 3 & \text{or } 5 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ 2 & \text{or } 4 & & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

Proof. We have $H_{K_{1,n}}(x) = x(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n$. Therefore it suffices to prove that $f(x) = (1+x)^n + nx^{n-2} + x^{n-1}$ has zero or two or four real roots when n is even, or one or three real roots when n is odd. But the number of real roots $f(x)$ is equal to the number of real roots of

$g(x) = (1 + \frac{1}{x})^n + \frac{n}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x}$. Again the number of real roots of $g(x)$ is equal to the number of real roots of

$$g(\frac{1}{x}) = (1+x)^n + nx^2 + x. \text{ Consider } \\ g(\frac{1}{y-1}) = y^n + n(y-1)^2 + y - 1 \\ = y^n + ny^2 - (2n-1)y + n - 1.$$

We find the number of real roots of $h(y) = g(\frac{1}{y-1})$. Here the term containing $y^{n-1}, y^{n-2}, \dots, y^3$ are absent. By De Gua's rule, $h(y)$ have at least n-3 complex roots when n is odd and at least n-4 complex roots when n is even. Hence the result. \square

Proposition 4.7.

$$H(K_{2,n}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{or } 3 & \text{or } 5 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 2 & \text{or } 4 & \text{or } 6 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Proof. $H_{K_{2,n}}(x) = x(x+2)(1+x)^n + nx^{n-1} + x^n$. Therefore it suffices to prove that $f(x) = (x+2)(1+x)^n + nx^{n-2} + x^{n-1}$ has zero or two or four real roots when n is odd, and one or three or five real roots when n is even. But the number of real roots $f(x)$ is equal to the number of real roots of

$$g(x) = (1 + \frac{2}{x})(1 + \frac{1}{x})^n + \frac{n}{x^3} + \frac{1}{x^2}.$$

Again the number of real roots of $g(x)$ is equal to the number of real roots of

$$g(\frac{1}{x}) = (1+2x)(1+x)^n + nx^3 + x^2. \text{ Consider, } \\ g(\frac{1}{y-1}) = 2y^{n+1} - y^n + ny^3 - (3n-1)y^2 + (3n-2)y - (n-1).$$

We find the number of real roots of $h(y) = g(\frac{1}{y-1})$. Here the term containing $y^{n-1}, y^{n-2}, \dots, y^4$ are absent in $h(y)$. By De Gua's rule, $h(y)$ have at least n-4 complex roots when n is even and at least n-5 complex roots when n is odd. Hence the result. \square

5. H-Unique Graphs

Two graphs which are not isomorphic may have the same hub polynomial. So we introduce the concept of H-Unique graph as follows. Let H is the set of all connected graphs of order n. We define a relation on H as, $G_1 \equiv G_2$ if and only if $H_{G_1}(x) = H_{G_2}(x)$. Then \equiv is an equivalence relation on H. We denote equivalence class of G by $[G]$. It is clear that there is no H-Unique connected simple graph of order 3 and P_4 is the only H-unique graph of order 4. Also there are eight H-Unique graphs of order 5.

Definition 5.1. *A graph G is called H-Unique if $[G] = \{G\}$*

Theorem 5.2. *The path P_n is H-Unique for all $n \geq 4$*

Proof. If G is a graph having n vertices and $G \in [P_n]$, then $h(G) = n - 2$. Hence $G = P_n$ \square

Theorem 5.3. *If G is a graph of order n and $v \in V(G)$ be such that*

$d(v) = n - 1$ and $G - \{v\}$ is also connected, then G is H-Unique if and only if $G - \{v\}$ is H-Unique

Proof. Since $d(v) = n - 1$ we have $G = (G - \{v\}) + \{v\}$.

Hence $H_G(x) = x(1+x)^{n-1} + H_{G-\{v\}}(x)$. Therefore G is H-Unique if and only if $G - \{v\}$ is H-Unique. \square

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