

# Lower Bounds for Zagreb Indices of RNA Graphs Using Graph Algorithms

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## Abstract

The structure of RNA has been a natural subject for mathematical modeling, including many innovative computational models. The representation of RNA secondary structures as mathematical graphs has been illuminating for RNA structure analysis. In this work, we introduce the first and second Zagreb indices. Then, we obtain tree structures through BFS and DFS algorithms from graph searching algorithms. With the help of these trees, we compare these lower bound values by giving lower bounds for the first and second Zagreb indices of RNA secondary structure graphs.

*Keywords:* Zagreb indices, Graph search algorithms, RNA graph representation, DFS and BFS trees of RNA

## Introduction

In mathematical biology, mathematical methods are applied to biology to solve various modeling and computational problems. An RNA secondary structure can be represented as a graph, and graph theory is used for the analysis and calculation of molecular topology [9]. A graph is shown by a collection of connecting points and lines, who can be separately called vertices and edges [8]. Let be  $G$  a simple graph with  $\delta$  minimum and  $\Delta$  maximum degrees,  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges. A graph  $G$  is represented as  $G = (V, E)$ . For any  $u \in V$ ,  $d_u$  denotes the degree of this point [2]. Topological indices are numerical representations of a molecule [18, 20]. They are calculated from the heavy atom graphical characterization of the molecule [14]. One of the first topological indexes was the Wiener index, presented

by the mathematical chemist Wiener in 1947 [17]. It was shown that the Wiener index correlated well with the boiling points of alkanes [18, 25]. The degree-based topological indices are plays an vital role in chemical graph theory. One of the oldest degree-based topological indices is the Zagreb index, which was introduced by Gutman and Trinajstić in 1972 during the analysis of the structure-dependence of the total electron energy [10, 18]. The first Zagreb index  $M_1(G)$  and the second Zagreb index  $M_2(G)$  are defined as follows [2]:

$$M_1(G) = \sum_{i \in V(G)} d_i^2$$

and

$$M_2(G) = \sum_{ij \in E(G)} d_i d_j.$$

Graph models are now used not only to study RNA structure but also to identify modular repetitive RNA units, to sample the conformational space accessible for RNAs, and to predict three-dimensional folds of RNA [15, 20]. It also offers many advantages in new RNA designs. There are many graph representations of RNA secondary structures, including structure-induced representation, tree representation, and binary graph representation [7, 20]. Interest in developing new topological indices based on RNA graphs has been reanimated in recent years because such indices can be used to compare, identify and classify RNAs. The use of topological indices of RNA secondary structure to find quantitative structure-activity relationships (QSAR) can be an alternative to integrate secondary structure or sequence-to sequence similarity [1, 21, 24].

## Model and Analysis

### Model

#### Graph Research Algorithms

Many problems in artificial intelligence can be regarded as search problems, including planning, learning, problem solving, and (logical) reasoning [6]. Search problems may frequently be formulated as graph search problems, and can be solved by exploring a space of possible solutions in a more or less systematic order [3, 6]. The commonly used search methods are BFS (Breadth First Search) and DFS

(Deep First Search) algorithms. When applying the BFS algorithm, a starting point is first selected. Then, a tree graph is obtained by going to each neighboring point of this starting point and all the neighbors of the point located there. In the DFS algorithm, on the other hand, after the starting point is selected, it is passed to the point adjacent to this point, and then to a neighboring point of the passed point, and continues until all points of the graph are visited. After this process, a tree graph is obtained again [3, 5]. An important structure closely connected to a graph search is the corresponding search tree. Such a tree contains all the vertices of the graph and for every vertex different from the start vertex correctly one edge to a vertex preceding it in the search ordering. Such trees may be of particular interest as for example the tree obtained by a BFS contains the shortest paths from the root  $v$  to all other vertices and the trees generated by DFS can be used for fast planarity testing [11, 12, 19, 22, 23, 26]. In this study, we obtain DFS and BFS trees of RNA graph by applying BFS and DFS algorithms to RNA secondary structure graphs and we plotted RNA graph representations via [27].

### RNA Graph Representation

Ribonucleic Acids (RNAs) are among the most important molecules in life [13, 15]. Graph theory has been very useful in modeling and comparing RNA structures and generating new RNA structures [13, 15, 16, 20]. There are different representations of RNA graphs, from a very simplified representation where the number of vertices is minimal, where each nucleotide is a vertex, depending on the type of vertices and edges assigned [7]. In this study, we will use the graph representation resulting from the structure. Here, each nucleotide corresponds to a corner point and each hydrogen bond or phosphodiester bond to an edge. (Figure 1)

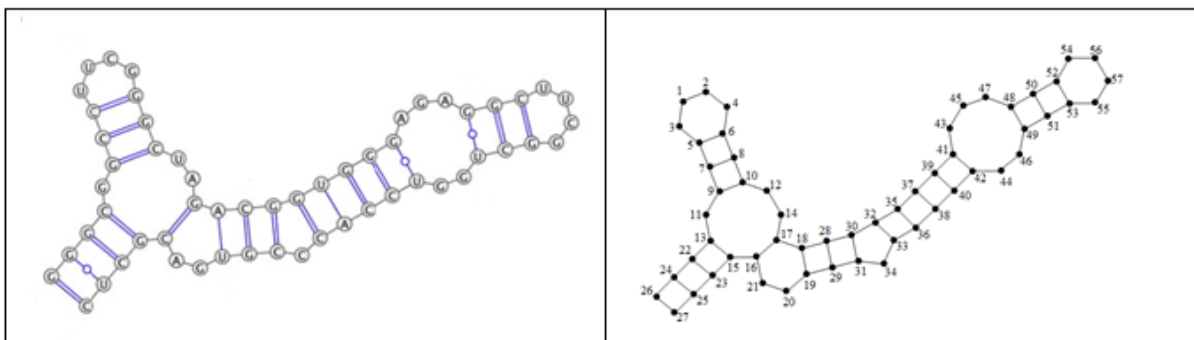


Figure 1: Ribosomal RNA and graph represented

### First and Second Zagreb Indices and BFS-DFS trees of RNA Graphs

We show graph representations of RNA secondary structures as  $G_{RNA}$ . First and second Zagreb indices of RNA structure graph  $G_{RNA}$  given in Figure 1:

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(G_{RNA}) &= 21 \cdot 2^2 + 36 \cdot 3^2 \\ &= 84 + 324 \\ &= 408 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(G_{RNA}) &= 12(2 \cdot 2) + 18(2 \cdot 3) + 45(3 \cdot 3) \\ &= 48 + 108 + 405 \\ &= 561. \end{aligned}$$

When applying the algorithm to the RNA graph, we specifically select one of the vertices with the highest degree. Here, point 10 is chosen as the starting point. In addition, the BFS and DFS trees of the RNA Graph given in figure 1 are as given in figure 2. Here we denote the BFS tree as  $G_{T-BFS}$  and the DFS tree as  $G_{T-DFS}$ .

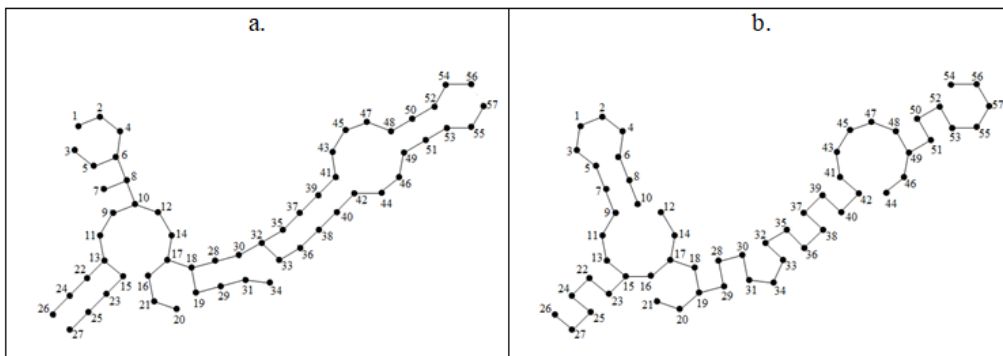


Figure 2:  $G_{T-BFS}$  tree, b.  $G_{T-DFS}$  tree

### Analysis and Discussion

#### Lower bounds of Zagreb indices of RNA graphs with the help of BFS tree

**Theorem 1.** For an  $n$  –point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$4n - r(\Delta^2 - 4) - 6k \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

there is inequality. Here  $k$  is the sum of the number of loops and ends in the RNA structure.

*Proof:* Let the graph obtained as a result of applying the BFS algorithm to a  $G_{RNA}$  structure be represented by  $G_{T-BFS}$ . In this case, if there are  $k$  loops and ends in the  $G_{RNA}$  tree structure, there are at most  $2k$  1 –order points in the  $G_{T-BFS}$  tree. Also, if we assume that there are at most  $r$  points of

maximum degree in the  $G_{T-BFS}$  tree, the number of points with a degree of 2 is at most  $n - 2k - r$ . In that case

$$\begin{aligned} 2k \cdot 1^2 + r \cdot \Delta^2 + (n - 2k - r) \cdot 2^2 &\leq M_1(G_{RNA}) \\ 2k + r\Delta^2 + 4n - 8k - 4r &\leq M_1(G_{RNA}) \\ 4n - r(\Delta^2 - 4) - 6k &\leq M_1(G_{RNA}). \end{aligned}$$

Where,  $A$  being  $4n - r(\Delta^2 - 4) - 6k = A$ ; The first Zagreb index of the  $G_{RNA}$  construct is a lower bound for  $M_1$ .

**Theorem 2.** For an  $n$ -point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r) \leq M_2(G_{RNA})$$

there is inequality. Here  $k$  is the sum of the number of loops and ends in the  $G_{RNA}$  structure.

*Proof:* If an  $n$ -point  $G_{RNA}$  structure has  $k$  loops and endpoints, then there are  $2k$  points with a degree of 1 in the  $G_{T-BFS}$  tree obtained by applying the BFS algorithm. Let's assume that the degrees of the vertices connected to these points with a degree of 1 are maximum 2. On the other hand, if we assume that there are  $r$  points with  $\Delta$  maximum degree in the  $G_{T-BFS}$  tree, let the other endpoints of the edges connected to this  $\Delta$  maximum degree  $r$  point have a maximum degree of 2. Thus,  $n - 2k - r$  points are left in the tree graph with an end (or related) and  $\Delta$  maximum degree and not connected to these points. Assuming that every vertex is of 2 degrees, except for all points of  $\Delta$  degree and 1 degree

$$\begin{aligned} (1.2)2k + (\Delta.2)r + (2.2)(n - 2k - z) &\leq M_2(G) \\ = 4k + 2\Delta r + 4n - 8k - 4z &\leq M_2(G) \\ = 2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r) &\leq M_2(G). \end{aligned}$$

Where  $2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r) = C$ , where  $C$ ; The second Zagreb index of the  $G_{RNA}$  construct is a lower bound for  $M_2$ .

### Lower bounds of Zagreb indices of RNA graphs with the help of DFS tree

**Theorem 3.** For an  $n$ -point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$\Delta^2 - 6k + 4(n - 1) \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

there is inequality. Here  $k$  is the sum of the number of loops and ends in the RNA structure.

*Proof:* Let the graph obtained as a result of applying the DFS algorithm to a  $G_{RNA}$  structure be represented by  $G_{T-DFS}$ . If there are  $k$  loops and ends in the  $n$ -point  $G_{RNA}$  tree structure, there are at most  $2k - 1$  order points. In addition, there are  $n - 2k - 1$  2 graded points, 1 of which is  $\Delta$  maximum graded point. In that case

$$2k. 1 + 1. \Delta^2 + 2^2(n - 2k - 1) \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

$$\Delta^2 + 2k + 4(n - 2k - 1) \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

$$\Delta^2 + 2k + 4n - 8k - 4 \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

$$\Delta^2 - 6k + 4(n - 1) \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

Where  $\Delta^2 - 6k + 4(n - 1) = B$  being  $B$ ; The first Zagreb index of the  $G_{RNA}$  construct is a lower bound for  $M_1$ .

**Theorem 4.** For an  $n$  -point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2) \leq M_2(G_{RNA})$$

Here is inequality. Here  $k$  is the sum of the number of loops and ends in the  $G_{RNA}$  structure.

*Proof:* If an  $n$  -point  $G_{RNA}$  structure has  $k$  loops and endpoints, then there are  $2k$  points with a degree of 1 in the  $G_{T-DFS}$  tree obtained by applying the DFS algorithm. Let's assume that the degrees of the vertices connected to these points with a degree of 1 are maximum 2. On the other hand, if we assume that there is 1 point with  $\Delta$  maximum degree in the  $G_{T-DFS}$  tree, let the vertex  $t$  and other endpoints connected to this  $\Delta$  maximum degree point have a maximum degree of 2. Thus, there are  $n - 2k - t - 1$  points in the tree graph that are end (or related) and  $\Delta$  maximum degree and not connected to these points. Assuming that every vertex is of 2 degrees, except for all points of  $\Delta$  degree and 1 degree

$$\begin{aligned} (1.2)2k + (\Delta.2)t + (2.2)(n - 2k - t - 1) &\leq M_2(G) \\ &= 4k + 2\Delta t + 4n - 8k - 4t - 4 \leq M_2(G) \\ &= 2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2) \leq M_2(G). \end{aligned}$$

Where  $2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2) = D$ ,  $D$ ; The second Zagreb index of the  $G_{RNA}$  construct is a lower bound for  $M_2$ .

### Comparisons

**Theorem 5.** For an  $n$  -point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$A = 4n - r(\Delta^2 - 4) - 6k \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

and

$$B = \Delta^2 - 6k + 4(n - 1) \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

and  $B \geq A$ . Therefore, the lower bound for the tree structure obtained as a result of the BFS algorithm for  $M_1(G_{RNA})$  gave better results compared to the DFS algorithm.

*Proof:*

$$A = 4n - r(\Delta^2 - 4) - 6k$$

and

$$B = \Delta^2 - 6k + 4(n - 1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B - A &= \Delta^2 - 4 + r(\Delta^2 - 4) \\ &= (\Delta^2 - 4)(1 + r) \end{aligned}$$

$B - A \geq 0$  is obtained with  $\Delta \geq 2$  and  $r > 1$ . Therefore,  $B \geq A$  is

$$A \leq B \leq M_1(G_{RNA})$$

inequality is achieved.

**Theorem 6.** For an  $n$ -point  $G_{RNA}$  secondary structure graph

$$C = 2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r) \leq M_2(G_{RNA})$$

and

$$D = 2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2) \leq M_2(G_{RNA})$$

including  $C \geq D$ . Therefore, the lower bound for the tree structure obtained as a result of the DFS algorithm for  $M_2(G_{RNA})$  gave better results compared to the BFS algorithm.

*Proof:*

$$C = 2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r)$$

and

$$D = 2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} C - D &= 2(\Delta r + 2n - 2k - 2r) - 2(\Delta t + 2n - 2k - 2t - 2) \\ &= 2\Delta(r + t) - 4(r + t) + 4 \\ &= (2\Delta - 4)(r + t) + 4 \end{aligned}$$

$C - D \geq 0$  is obtained with  $\Delta \geq 2$  and  $r > 1, t \geq 1$ . Therefore,  $C \geq D$  is

$$D \leq C \leq M_2(G_{RNA})$$

inequality is achieved.

## Conclusions

Many studies have been conducted on the Zagreb indices and many results have been obtained on this subject. However, there was no lower bound finding study of Zagreb indices of any RNA graph with the help of BFS-DFS algorithms. Here, we gave theorems for the lower bounds of Zagreb indices of RNA graphs with the help of BFS and DFS trees and completed our proofs by making various comparisons.

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