

# Spectral Characterization of the Edge-Deleted Subgraphs of Complete Graph

Ting Zeng WU\*, Sheng Biao HU

*Department of Mathematics, Qinghai Nationalities University, Qinghai 810007, P. R. China*

**Abstract** In this paper, we show that some edges-deleted subgraphs of complete graph are determined by their spectrum with respect to the adjacency matrix as well as the Laplacian matrix.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph with vertex set  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and edge set  $E$ . All graphs considered here are simple and undirected. Let  $d(v_i)$  denote the vertex degree of  $v_i$ . Let  $A(G)$  be the  $(0,1)$ -adjacency matrix of  $G$ . The matrix  $L(G) = D(G) - A(G)$  is called the Laplacian matrix of  $G$ , where  $D(G)$  is the  $n \times n$  diagonal matrix with  $\{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$  as diagonal entries (and all other entries 0). The polynomial  $P_{A(G)}(\lambda) = \det(\lambda I - A(G))$  and  $P_{L(G)}(\mu) = \det(\mu I - L(G))$  are defined as the characteristic polynomials of the graph  $G$  with respect to the adjacency matrix and the Laplacian matrix, respectively, where  $I$  is the identity matrix, which can be written as  $P_{A(G)}(\lambda) = \lambda^n + a_1\lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_n$  and  $P_{L(G)}(\mu) = \mu^n + q_1\mu^{n-1} + \dots + q_n$ , respectively. Since both matrices  $A(G)$  and  $L(G)$  are real and symmetric, their eigenvalues are all real numbers. Assume that  $\lambda_1(G) \geq \lambda_2(G) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(G)$  and  $\mu_1(G) \geq \mu_2(G) \geq \dots \geq \mu_n(G) (= 0)$  are the adjacency eigenvalues and Laplacian eigenvalues of graph  $G$ , respectively. The adjacency spectrum of graph  $G$  consists of the adjacency eigenvalues (together with their multiplicities), and the Laplacian spectrum of graph  $G$  consists of the Laplacian eigenvalues (together with their multiplicities).

Two graphs are cospectral if they share the same spectrum. A graph  $G$  is said to be determined by its spectrum (DS for short) if for any graph  $H$ ,  $P_{A(H)}(\lambda) = P_{A(G)}(\lambda)$  (or  $P_{L(H)}(\mu) = P_{L(G)}(\mu)$ ) implies that  $H$  is isomorphic to  $G$ .

Up to now, only few graphs with very special structures have been proved to be determined by their spectra. So, “which graphs are determined by their spectrum?” [3] seems to be a difficult

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\* Corresponding author

E-mail address: tingzengwu@yahoo.com.cn (T. Z. WU); shengbiaohu@yahoo.com.cn (S. B. HU)

problem in the theory of graph spectrum.

Some known results can be found in [2, 4–8, 10–13].

In this paper, some more special graphs will be discussed. If a graph  $G$  is obtained from  $K_n$  by deleting one, two, three or four edges, then  $G$  must be isomorphic to one of  $G_{ij}$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4; j = 0, 1, \dots, 10$ ) as shown in Figure 1.

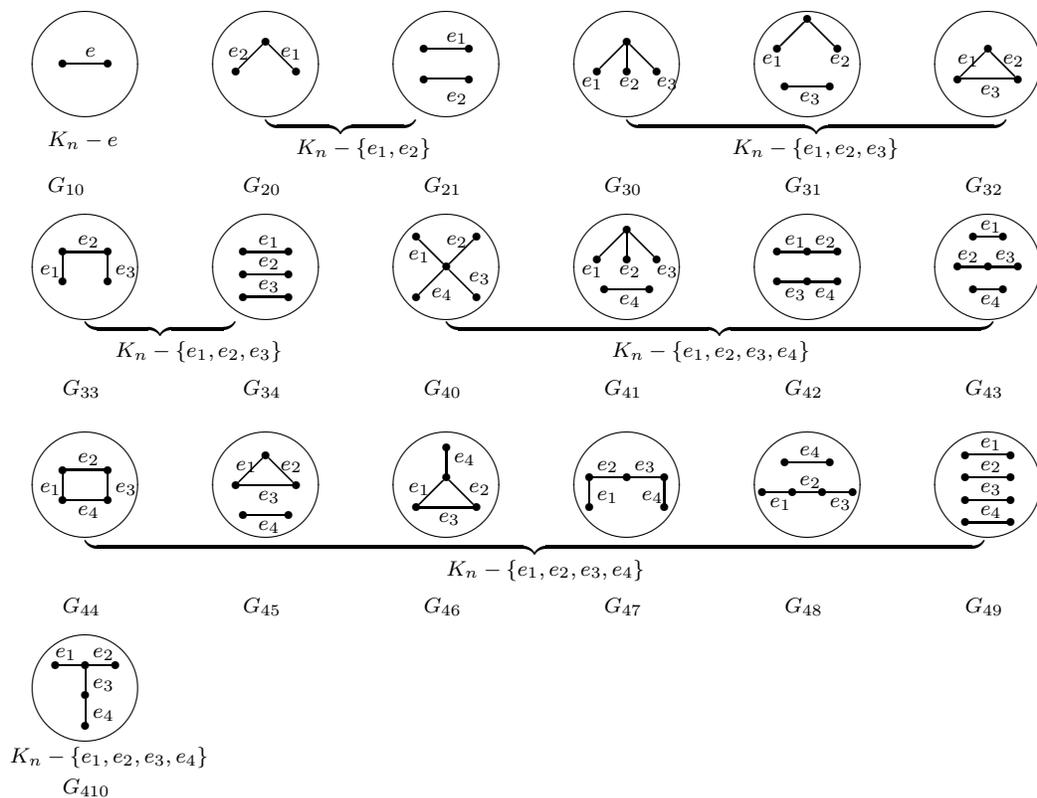


Figure 1  $G_{ij}$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4; j = 0, 1, \dots, 10$ )

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a collection consisting of  $G$  where  $G$  is the graph obtained from the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting one, two, three or four edges, that is,  $\mathcal{G} = \{G_{10}, G_{20}, G_{21}, G_{30}, G_{31}, G_{32}, G_{33}, G_{34}, G_{40}, G_{41}, G_{42}, G_{43}, G_{44}, G_{45}, G_{46}, G_{47}, G_{48}, G_{49}, G_{410}\}$ . The number of deleted edges is  $i$  in  $K_n$ . In this paper, we prove that for any graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $G$  is determined by its adjacency spectrum and Laplacian spectrum, respectively. That is

**Theorem 1.1** *If graph  $G_i$  is obtained from  $K_n$  ( $n \geq i + 2$ ) by deleting  $i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) edges, then  $G_i$  is determined by its adjacency spectrum.*

**Theorem 1.2** *If graph  $G_i$  is obtained from  $K_n$  ( $n \geq i + 2$ ) by deleting  $i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) edges, then  $G_i$  is determined by its Laplacian spectrum.*

## 2. Some lemmas

In the section, we will present some lemmas which are required in the proof of the main results.

**Lemma 2.1** ([1]) *The coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of a graph  $G$  satisfy:*

- (1)  $a_1 = 0$ ;
- (2)  $-a_2$  is the number of edges of  $G$ ;
- (3)  $-a_3$  is twice the number of triangles in  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.2** ([3, 9]) *Let  $G$  be a graph. For the adjacency matrix and the Laplacian matrix, the following can be obtained from the spectrum.*

- (i) *The number of vertices.*
- (ii) *The number of edges.*
- (iii) *Whether  $G$  is regular.*
- (iv) *Whether  $G$  is regular with any fixed girth.*

*For the adjacency matrix the following follows from the spectrum.*

- (v) *The number of closed walk of any length.*
- (vi) *Whether  $G$  is bipartite.*

*For the Laplacian matrix the following follows from the spectrum.*

- (vii) *The number of spanning trees.*
- (viii) *The number of components.*
- (ix) *The sum of the squares of degrees of vertices.*

**Lemma 2.3** ([9, p. 657]) *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $e$  edges,  $x_i$  vertices of degree  $i$ , and  $y$  4-cycles. Then*

$$|w_4(G)| = 2e + 4 \sum_i \binom{i}{2} x_i + 8y, \quad (1)$$

where  $|w_4(G)|$  is the total number of closed 4-walks in  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.4** *Let  $G$  be a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $\binom{n}{2} - i$  edges,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . If  $n \geq 3, 4, 5, 6$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , respectively, then  $G$  has only one connected component.*

**Proof** Without loss of generality, we take  $i = 4$ . Assume that  $G$  have  $l$  ( $l > 1$ ) connected components, that is  $G = G_{n_1} \cup G_{n_2} \cup \cdots \cup G_{n_l}$ , where  $|V(G_{n_i})| = n_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$  and  $n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_l = n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - 4 &= |E(G)| = |E(G_{n_1})| + |E(G_{n_2})| + \cdots + |E(G_{n_l})| \\ &\leq \frac{n_1(n_1-1)}{2} + \frac{n_2(n_2-1)}{2} + \cdots + \frac{n_l(n_l-1)}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

namely,

$$\sum_{i=1}^l n_i^2 + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq l} n_i n_j - 8 = n^2 - 8 \leq \sum_{i=1}^l n_i^2,$$

we get

$$\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq l} n_i n_j \leq 4.$$

Since  $n \geq 6$ , this is a contradiction.

**Lemma 2.5** ([1, p. 41]) *If  $\overline{G}$  is the complement of  $G$ , and  $G$  has  $n$  vertices, then*

$$\kappa(G) = n^{-2} P_{L(\overline{G})}(n), \quad (2)$$

where  $\kappa(G)$  is the number of spanning trees of the graph  $G$ .

### 3. Proofs of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2

It is well known that the complete graph  $K_n$  are determined by their adjacency spectrum and Laplacian spectrum. Now we are ready to prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

**Proof of Theorem 1.1** Let  $G_i \in \mathcal{G}$ . Suppose a graph  $H$  is cospectral with  $G_i$  with respect to the adjacency spectrum. We consider the following cases.

**Case 1**  $i=1$ . Consider the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting one edge. By Lemma 2.2,  $H$  is a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $\binom{n}{2}-1$  edges. By Lemma 2.4,  $H$  has only one connected component, then  $H \cong G \cong G_{10}$ .

**Case 2**  $i=2$ . Similarly to Case 1, we have  $H \cong G_{20}$  or  $H \cong G_{21}$ . In view of the fact that  $\binom{n}{3} - 2(n-2) + 1$  triangles are contained in  $G_{20}$  and  $\binom{n}{3} - 2(n-2)$  triangles are contained in  $G_{21}$ , by Lemma 2.1(3) or Lemma 2.2(v),  $G$  is determined by its adjacency spectrum.

**Case 3**  $i=3$ . Similarly to Case 1, the  $H$  must be isomorphic to one of  $G_{3j}$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ ).

There are  $\binom{n}{3} - 3(n-2) + 3$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 3(n-2) + 1$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 3(n-2) + 2$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 3(n-2) + 2$  and  $\binom{n}{3} - 3(n-2)$  triangles contained in  $G_{30}$ ,  $G_{31}$ ,  $G_{32}$ ,  $G_{33}$  and  $G_{34}$ , respectively. Obviously,  $G_{32}$  and  $G_{33}$  have equal triangles. Moreover, there are  $2e + 4(3\binom{n-3}{2} + (n-3)\binom{n-1}{2}) + 8(3\binom{n}{4} - 6\binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3))$ ,  $2e + 4(2\binom{n-3}{2} + 2\binom{n-2}{2} + (n-4)\binom{n-1}{2}) + 8(3\binom{n}{4} - 6\binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 1)$  closed 4-walks in  $G_{32}$  and  $G_{33}$ , respectively. If  $G_{32}$  and  $G_{33}$  are cospectral, by Lemma 2.2(v), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + (n-3) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 6 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) \right) \\ &= 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 6 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Solving this equation, we get  $n=3$ , a contradiction.

**Case 4**  $i=4$ . Similarly to Case 1, the  $H$  must be isomorphic to one of  $G_{4j}$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$ ).

In view of  $G_{40} - G_{410}$ , there are  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 6$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 3$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 2$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 1$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 4$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 2$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 4$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 3$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 2$ ,  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2)$  and  $\binom{n}{3} - 4(n-2) + 4$  triangles contained in  $G_{40} - G_{410}$ , respectively. Obviously,  $G_{41}$  and  $G_{47}$  have equal triangles,  $G_{44}$ ,  $G_{46}$  and  $G_{410}$  have equal triangles,  $G_{42}$ ,  $G_{45}$  and  $G_{48}$  have equal triangles. If they are cospectral, we consider the following subcases.

**Subcase 1** By Lemma 2.3, we calculate  $|w_4(G_{41})|$  and  $|w_4(G_{47})|$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} |w_4(G_{41})| &= 2e + 4 \left( \binom{n-4}{2} + 5 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 6 \right) \text{ and} \\ |w_4(G_{47})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 4 \right). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.2(v), we have  $|w_4(G_{41})| = |w_4(G_{47})|$ , that is

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( \binom{n-4}{2} + 5 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 6 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 4 \right). \end{aligned}$$

This equation has no solution.

**Subcase 2** Similarly to Subcase 1, by Lemma 2.3, we calculate  $|w_4(G_{44})|$ ,  $|w_4(G_{46})|$  and  $|w_4(G_{410})|$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} |w_4(G_{44})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 4 \binom{n-3}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 1 \right), \\ |w_4(G_{46})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + \binom{n-2}{2} + \binom{n-4}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 5(n-3) \right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$|w_4(G_{410})| = 2e + 4 \left( \binom{n-4}{2} + \binom{n-3}{2} + 3 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 2 \right).$$

By Lemma 2.2(v), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( 4 \binom{n-3}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 1 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + \binom{n-2}{2} + \binom{n-4}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 5(n-3) \right), \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + \binom{n-2}{2} + \binom{n-4}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 5(n-3) \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( \binom{n-4}{2} + \binom{n-3}{2} + 3 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 2 \right), \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( \binom{n-4}{2} + \binom{n-3}{2} + 3 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 2 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 4 \binom{n-3}{2} + (n-4) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 4(n-3) + 1 \right). \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

Solving the equation (3), we get  $n=3$ , a contradiction with  $n \geq 6$ . Solving the equation (4), we get  $n=4$ , a contradiction with  $n \geq 6$ . The equation (5) has no solution.

**Subcase 3** Similarly to Subcase 1, by Lemma 2.3, we calculate  $|w_4(G_{42})|$ ,  $|w_4(G_{45})|$  and  $|w_4(G_{48})|$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} |w_4(G_{42})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 8 \right), \\ |w_4(G_{45})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 6 \right) \text{ and} \\ |w_4(G_{48})| &= 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 7 \right). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.2(v), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 8 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 6 \right), \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( 3 \binom{n-3}{2} + 2 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-5) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 3(n-3) + 6 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 7 \right), \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 7 \right) \\ = 2e + 4 \left( 2 \binom{n-3}{2} + 4 \binom{n-2}{2} + (n-6) \binom{n-1}{2} \right) + 8 \left( 3 \binom{n}{4} - 8 \binom{n-2}{2} + 2(n-3) + 8 \right). \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

Solving the equation (6), we get  $n=4$ , a contradiction with  $n \geq 6$ . Solving the equation (7), we get  $n=3$ , a contradiction with  $n \geq 6$ . The equation (8) has no solution.

In what follows, we prove Theorem 1.2. To this end, we need the following Lemmas.

**Lemma 3.1** Let  $d^2(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2(G)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} d^2(G_{30}) &= (n-4)(n-1)^2 + 3(n-2)^2 + (n-4)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 11n + 24; \\ d^2(G_{31}) &= (n-5)(n-1)^2 + 4(n-2)^2 + (n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 11n + 20; \\ d^2(G_{32}) &= (n-3)(n-1)^2 + 3(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 11n + 24; \\ d^2(G_{33}) &= (n-4)(n-1)^2 + 2(n-2)^2 + 2(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 11n + 22; \\ d^2(G_{34}) &= (n-6)(n-1)^2 + 6(n-2)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 11n + 18. \\ d^2(G_{40}) &= (n-5)(n-1)^2 + 4(n-2)^2 + (n-5)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 36. \\ d^2(G_{41}) &= (n-6)(n-1)^2 + 5(n-2)^2 + (n-4)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 30. \\ d^2(G_{42}) &= (n-6)(n-1)^2 + 4(n-2)^2 + 2(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 28. \\ d^2(G_{43}) &= (n-7)(n-1)^2 + 6(n-2)^2 + (n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 26. \\ d^2(G_{44}) &= (n-4)(n-1)^2 + 4(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 32. \\ d^2(G_{45}) &= (n-5)(n-1)^2 + 2(n-2)^2 + 3(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 30. \\ d^2(G_{46}) &= (n-4)(n-1)^2 + (n-2)^2 + 2(n-3)^2 + (n-4)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 34. \\ d^2(G_{47}) &= (n-5)(n-1)^2 + 2(n-2)^2 + 3(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 30. \\ d^2(G_{48}) &= (n-6)(n-1)^2 + 4(n-2)^2 + 2(n-3)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 28. \\ d^2(G_{49}) &= (n-8)(n-1)^2 + 8(n-2)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 24. \\ d^2(G_{410}) &= (n-5)(n-1)^2 + 3(n-2)^2 + (n-3)^2 + (n-4)^2 = n^3 - 2n^2 - 15n + 32. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof** By simple calculation, we can obtain the results.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2** Let  $G$  is a graph. If  $\kappa(G)$  is the number of spanning trees of the graph  $G$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa(G_{30}) &= n^{n-5}(n-1)^2(n-4); \\ \kappa(G_{32}) &= n^{n-5}((n-2)^3 - 3n + 8); \\ \kappa(G_{41}) &= n^{n-8}(n^6 - 8n^5 + 21n^4 - 22n^3 + 8n^2); \\ \kappa(G_{42}) &= n^{n-8}(n^6 - 8n^5 + 22n^4 - 24n^3 + 9n^2); \\ \kappa(G_{44}) &= n^{n-6}(n^4 - 8n^3 + 20n^2 - 16n); \\ \kappa(G_{45}) &= n^{n-7}(n^5 - 8n^4 + 21n^3 - 18n^2); \\ \kappa(G_{47}) &= n^{n-7}(n^5 - 8n^4 + 21n^3 - 20n^2 + 5n); \\ \kappa(G_{48}) &= n^{n-8}(n^6 - 8n^5 + 22n^4 - 23n^3 + 5n^2 + 2n); \\ \kappa(G_{410}) &= n^{n-7}(n^5 - 8n^4 + 20n^3 - 18n^2 + 5n). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof** Without loss of generality, we calculate only  $\kappa(G_{30})$ . Since

$$\overline{G}_{30} = K_{1,3} \cup (n-4)K_1,$$

it follows

$$P_{L(\overline{G}_{30})}(\mu) = \mu^{n-3}(\mu-1)^2(\mu-4).$$

By Lemma 2.5, we have

$$\kappa(G_{30}) = n^{-2}P_{L(\overline{G}_{30})}(n) = n^{n-5}(n-1)^2(n-4).$$

Similarly to the calculation of  $\kappa(G_{30})$ , we can get other  $\kappa(G_{ij})$  in the Lemma.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.2** Let  $G_i \in \mathcal{G}$ . Suppose a graph  $H$  is cospectral with  $G_i$  with respect to

the Laplacian spectrum. We consider the following cases.

**Case 1**  $i = 1$ . Considering the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting one edge leads to the conclusion obviously.

**Case 2**  $i = 2$ . Consider the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting two edges. By Lemma 2.2,  $H$  is a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $\binom{n}{2} - 2$  edges. By Lemma 2.2(viii),  $H$  has only one connected component, then  $H \cong G_{20}$  or  $H \cong G_{21}$ . We prove  $G_{20}$  and  $G_{21}$  are not Laplacian cospectral. Suppose that  $G_{20}$  and  $G_{21}$  are Laplacian cospectral. By Lemma 2.2(ix), graphs  $G_{20}$  and  $G_{21}$  have the same sum of the squares of degrees of vertices. We have the following equation

$$2(n-2)^2 + (n-3)^2 + (n-1)^2 = 4(n-2)^2,$$

which has no solution, a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $i = 3$ . Similarly to Case 2, consider the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting three edges. The  $H$  must be isomorphic to one of  $G_{3j}$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ ). By Lemma 3.1, we know that only graphs  $G_{30}$  and  $G_{32}$  have the same sum of the squares of degrees of vertices. If  $G_{30}$  and  $G_{32}$  are cospectral with respect to the Laplacian spectrum, then by Lemma 2.2(vii)  $G_{30}$  and  $G_{32}$  have the same number of spanning trees, but by Lemma 3.2 we know that  $\kappa(G_{30}) \neq \kappa(G_{32})$  for any  $n$ . So  $G_{30}$  and  $G_{32}$  are not cospectral with respect to the Laplacian spectrum.

**Case 4**  $i = 4$ . Similarly to Case 2, consider the complete graph  $K_n$  by deleting four edges. The  $H$  must be isomorphic to one of  $G_{4j}$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$ ). By Lemma 3.1, we have 3 subcases as follows.

**Subcase 1** The graphs  $G_{41}$ ,  $G_{45}$  and  $G_{47}$  have the same sum of the squares of degrees of vertices. But by Lemma 3.2, we have  $\kappa(G_{41}) \neq \kappa(G_{45}) \neq \kappa(G_{47})$  for  $n \geq 3$ . So  $G_{41}$ ,  $G_{45}$  and  $G_{47}$  are not cospectral with respect to the Laplacian spectrum.

**Subcase 2** Only the graphs  $G_{42}$  and  $G_{48}$  have the same sum of the squares of degrees of vertices. But by Lemma 3.2, we have  $\kappa(G_{42}) \neq \kappa(G_{48})$  for any  $n$ . So  $G_{42}$  and  $G_{48}$  are not cospectral with respect to the Laplacian spectrum.

**Subcase 3** Only the graphs  $G_{44}$  and  $G_{410}$  have the same sum of the squares of degrees of vertices. But by Lemma 3.2, we have  $\kappa(G_{44}) \neq \kappa(G_{410})$  for any  $n$ . So  $G_{44}$  and  $G_{410}$  are not cospectral with respect to the Laplacian spectrum.

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