

## The generalized 3-connectivity of equally complete $k$ -partite graph and its line graph

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### Abstract

For a vertex set  $S$  with cardinality at least 2 in a graph  $G$ , we need a tree in order to connect the set, where this tree is usually called a Steiner tree connecting  $S$  (or an  $S$ -tree). Two Steiner trees  $T$  and  $T'$  are said to be internally disjoint if  $V(T) \cap V(T') = S$  and  $E(T) \cap E(T') = \emptyset$ . Let  $\kappa_G(S)$  denote the maximum number of internally disjoint Steiner trees connecting  $S$  in  $G$ . The generalized  $k$ -connectivity  $\kappa_k(G)$  of a graph  $G$  which was introduced by Chartrand et al. (1984) and defined as:  $\kappa_k(G) = \min\{\kappa_G(S) : S \subseteq V(G) \text{ and } |S| = k\}$ . In this paper we determine the generalized 3-connectivity of equally complete  $k$ -partite graph and its line graphs.

**Keywords :** The generalized 3- connectivity, internally disjoint trees, Steiner trees, the line graph, the complete  $k$ -partite graph.

### 1. Introduction

The graphs in this paper are simple and undirected. For a graph  $G$ , the set of vertices, the set of edges, and the line graph of  $G$  are denoted by  $V(G)$ ,  $E(G)$ , and  $L(G)$  respectively. The generalized connectivity of a graph  $G$  which introduced by Chartrand et al. in [1], is a natural and nice generalization of the vertex connectivity.

The connectivity of the graph  $G$  is defined as  $\kappa(G) = \min\{\kappa_G(S) : S \subseteq V, |S| = 2\}$ , where  $\kappa_G(S)$  is the maximum number of internally disjoint paths from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $G$  ( $S = \{u, v\}$ ) [2,3]. The subgraph  $T = (V', E')$  of the graph  $G = (V, E)$  is called Steiner tree connecting  $S$  ( $S$ -tree) if  $T$  is a tree and the set  $S \subseteq V$  of at least two vertices. Two Steiner trees  $T$  and  $T'$  connecting  $S$  are said to be internally disjoint if  $E(T) \cap E(T') = \emptyset$  and  $V(T) \cap V(T') = S$ . For an integer  $k$  with  $2 \leq k \leq |V(G)|$  and  $S \subseteq V(G)$  with  $|S| \geq 2$ , the generalized  $k$ -connectivity is define as:  $\kappa_k(G) = \min\{\kappa_G(S) : S \subseteq V(G), |S| = k\}$ , where  $\kappa_G(S)$  is maximum number of internally disjoint Steiner trees connecting  $S$  in  $G$ . Clearly  $\kappa_2(G) = \kappa(G)$ . In [4] Li, Shasha, Wei Li, and Xu-

eliang Li, determined the generalized connectivity of complete bipartite graphs. Later, they discussed the generalized connectivity of the complete equipartition 3-partite graphs in [5], the generalized 3-connectivity of graph products [3], also see [2,6,7,8,9].

Let  $K_k(n)$  be an equally complete  $k$ -partite graph with partition  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k\}$  where  $|X_i| = n$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , and let  $H_{ij} = G[X_{ij}]$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  be an induced subgraph of  $G$  by the set  $X_{ij} = \{x_{rs} \in X_r : r = 1, 2, \dots, k, s = 1, 2, \dots, n, r \neq i\} \cup \{x_{ij}\}$ , see figure (1(a)). The line graph  $L(K_k(n))$  of the equally complete  $k$ -partite graph is a graph that  $V(L(K_k(n))) = E(K_k(n))$  and two vertices  $u = u_1u_2, v = v_1v_2 \in V(L(K_k(n)))$  are adjacent if either  $(u_1 = v_1 \text{ and } u_2v_2 \in E(K_k(n)))$  or  $(u_2 = v_2 \text{ and } u_1v_1 \in E(K_k(n)))$ . The line graph  $L(H_{ij})$  of the star graph  $H_{ij}$  is complete graph of order  $(k-1)n+1$  with  $V(L(H_{ij})) = \{x_{ij}x_{rs} : r = 1, 2, \dots, k, s = 1, 2, \dots, n, r \neq i\}$  see figure (1(b)).

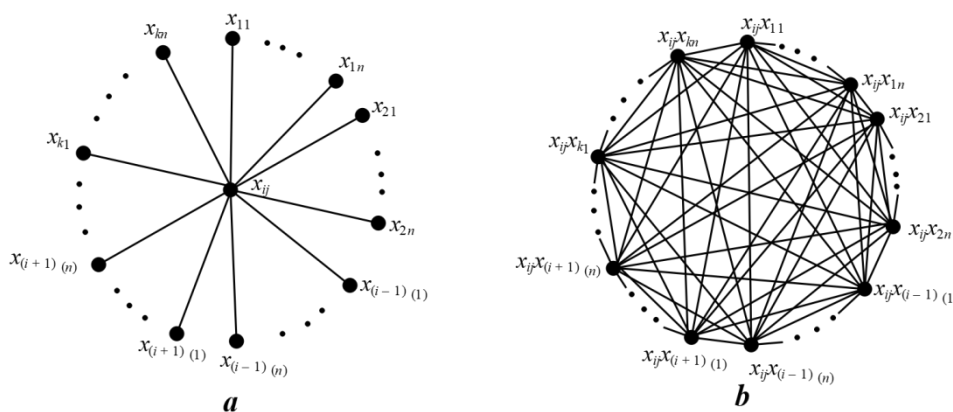


Figure 1: (a)  $H_{ij}$  and (b)  $L(H_{ij})$

## 2. Preliminary results

**Proposition 2.1** [10] Two simple graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic if and only if there is a bijective mapping  $\theta: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$  such that  $uv \in E(G)$  if and only if  $\theta(u)\theta(v) \in E(H)$ .

**Proposition 2.2** [9] Let  $G$  be a connected graph of order  $n$  with minimum degree  $\delta$ . If there are two adjacent vertices of degree  $\delta$ , then  $\kappa_k(G) \leq \delta - 1$  for  $3 \leq k \leq n$ . Moreover, the upper bound is sharp.

## 3. Main results

In this section, we determine the value of the generalized 3-connectivity of the equally complete  $k$ -partite graph and its line graph. First we introduce two lemmas that are important to the main results.

**Lemma 3.1** For any two positive integers  $k$  and  $n$ ,  $K_k(n) \cong \bigcup_{i=1}^k \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^n H_{ij} \right)$ .

**Proof:** Let  $G = K_k(n)$  and  $H = \bigcup_{i=1}^k (\bigcup_{j=1}^n (H_{ij}))$ .  $|V(G)| = kn$ ,  $|V(H)| = \frac{1}{1+n(k-1)} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n |V(H_{ij})|$   
 $= \frac{1}{1+n(k-1)} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n (1+n(k-1)) = nk$ , then  $|V(G)| = |V(H)|$ .  $|E(G)| = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2$ ,  $|E(H)| =$   
 $\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n |E(H_{ij})| = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{(k-1)n}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2$ , then  $|E(G)| = |E(H)|$ .

Define  $f : V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ , as  $f(x) = x, \forall x \in V(G)$ , then  $f$  is bijective mapping. Let  $uv \in E(G)$ , then there are  $i, i' = 1, 2, \dots, n, i \neq i'$  such that  $u \in X_i, v \in X_{i'}$ , also there are  $j, j' = 1, 2, \dots, k$  such that  $u = x_{ij} \in X_{ij}, v = x_{i'j'} \in X_{i'j'}$ . Clearly, there exist  $uv = x_{ij}x_{i'j'} \in E(H_{ij}) \cap E(H_{i'j'}) \subseteq E(H)$  for some  $i, i' = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $j, j' = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Since  $f(u)f(v) = uv$ , then  $f(u)f(v) \in E(H)$  from proposition (2.1). ■

**Lemma 3.2** For any two positive integers  $k$  and  $n$ ,  $L(K_k(n)) \cong \bigcup_{i=1}^k \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^n L(H_{ij}) \right)$ .

**Proof:** Let  $L(G) = L(K_k(n))$  and  $L(H) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \bigcup_{j=1}^n L(H_{ij})$ .  $|V(L(G))| = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2$ ,  $|V(L(H))|$

$\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n |V(L(H_{ij}))| = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{(k-1)n}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2$ , then  $|V(L(G))| = |V(L(H))|$ .  $|E(L(G))| = \frac{1}{2}$

$\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n (d_G(x_{ij}))^2 - E(G(x_{ij})) = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)^2 n^3 - \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2 = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2((k-1)n-1)$ ,

$|E(L(H))| = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n |E(L(X_{ij}))| = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{(k-1)n((k-1)n-1)}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} k(k-1)n^2((k-1)n-1)$ , then

$|E(L(G))| = |E(L(H))|$ , see figure(2).

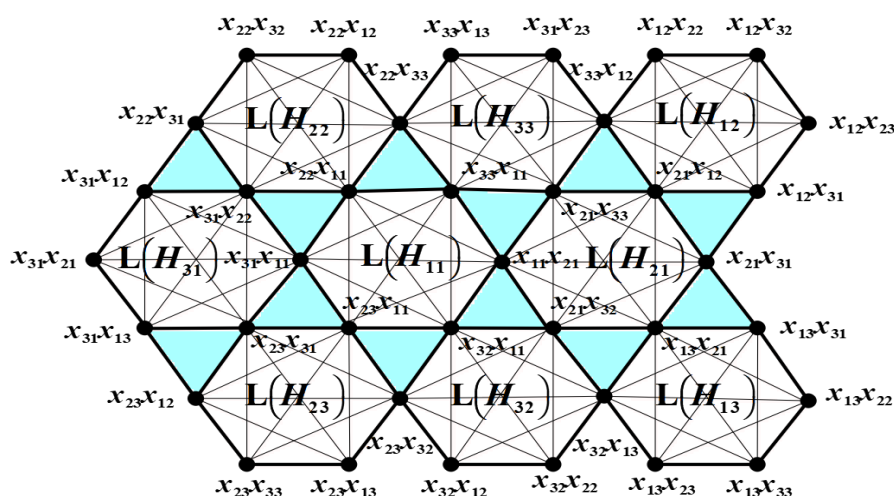


Figure 2:  $L(K_3(3))$

Suppose  $a \in V(L(K_k(n)))$ , this mean  $a$  is an edge in  $K_k(n)$ , thus there are two vertices  $x_{ij}, x_{i'j'}$  in  $K_k(n)$ ,  $\forall i \neq i'$  such that  $a = x_{ij}x_{i'j'}$ . Then  $a \in E(H_{ij}) \cap E(H_{i'j'})$  for some  $i, i' = 1, 2, \dots, k$  and  $j, j' = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , i.e.  $a \in V(L(H_{ij})) \cap V(L(H_{i'j'}))$ , thus  $a \in V(L(H))$ .

Define  $f : V(L(G)) \rightarrow V(L(H))$ , as  $f(x) = x, \forall x \in V(L(G))$ , then  $f$  is bijective mapping. Let  $ab \in E(L(G))$  such that  $a = x_{ij}x_{i'j'}$ ,  $b = x_{ij}x_{i''j''}$ ,  $\forall i, i', i'' = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $i \neq i', i \neq i''$  and  $j, j', j'' = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , such that  $a \in X_{ij}, b \in X_{i'j'}$ . Clearly, there exist  $ab = x_{ij}x_{i'j'}x_{ij}x_{i'j'} \in E(L(H_{ij})) \cap E(L(H_{i'j'})) \subseteq E(L(H))$ . Since  $f(a)f(b) = ab$ , then  $f(a)f(b) \in E(L(H))$  from pro. (2.1). ■

**Theorem 3.3 :** Let  $K_k(n)$  be a complete  $k$ -partite graph with two integers  $k, n \geq 3$ , the generalized 3-connectivity of  $K_k(n)$  is  $\left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor \leq \kappa_3(K_k(n)) \leq n(k-1)-1$ .

**Proof :** Let  $G = K_k(n)$  and  $H = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^n H_{ij} \right)$ , from the lemma (3.1) we have  $G \cong H$ . Since the degree of any vertex in  $H$  is  $n(k-1)$ , then  $H$  is  $n(k-1)$ -regular graph, by the proposition (2.2) we have  $\kappa_3(H) \leq n(k-1)-1$ . For the completing the proof we just need to show that for any 3-subset  $S = \{u, v, w\} \subseteq V(G)$ , there exist at least  $\left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor$  internally disjoint Steiner trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$ . Since  $H_{1j} = H_{2j} = \dots = H_{kj} = K_{1, (k-1)n}, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,  $H_{1j} \cong H_{2j} \cong \dots \cong H_{kj}$ , then we have three cases :

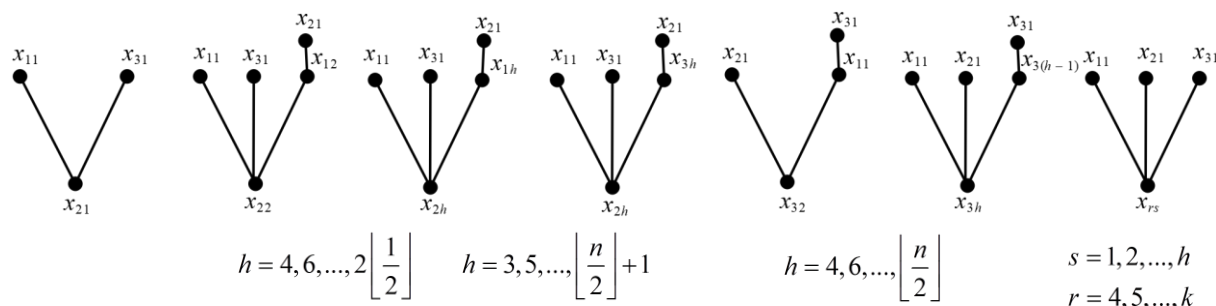


Figure 3

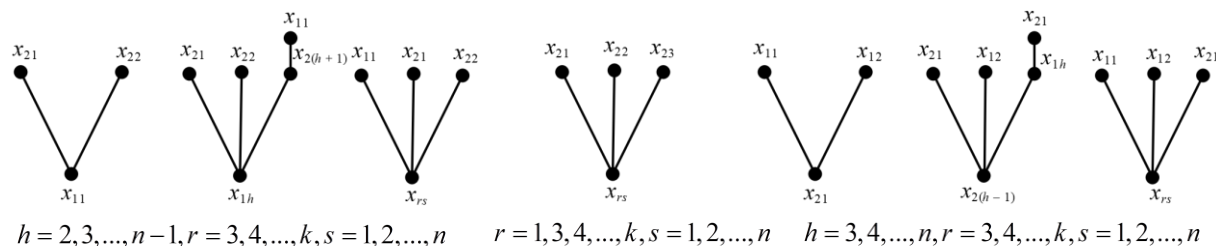


Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

**Case 1.** If  $u, v, w \in H_{ij}, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Without loss of generality, we may put  $i = 1, j = 1$ , such that  $u, v, w \in H_{11}$ . Then there are three subcases:

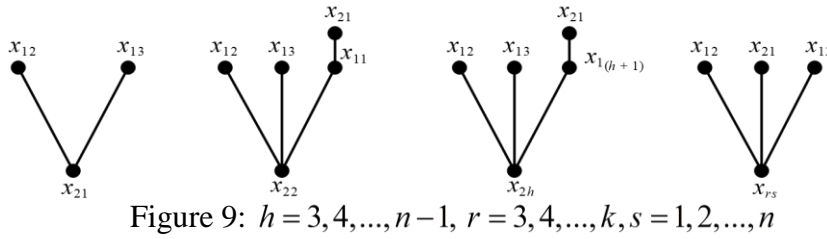
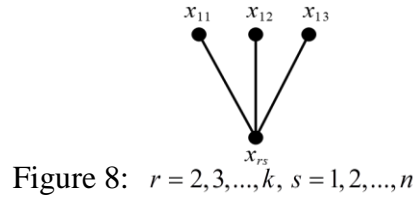
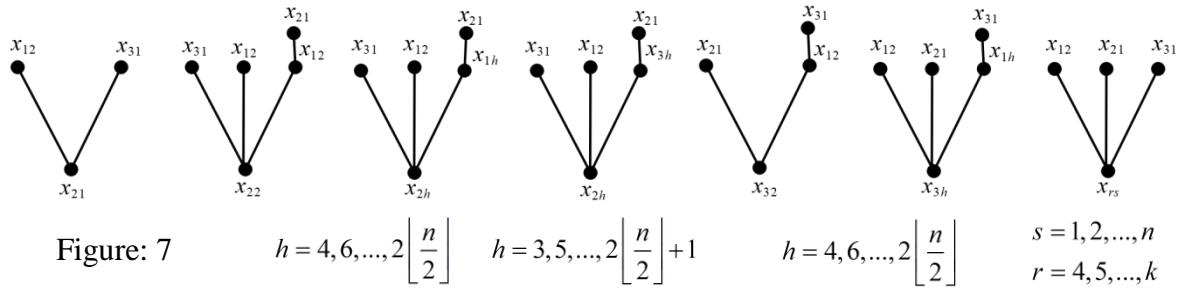
**Subcase (1.1)** Let  $u = x_{11}, v = x_{21}, w = x_{31}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $\left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor$ , see figure 3.

**Subcase (1.2)** Let  $u = x_{11}, v = x_{21}, w = x_{22}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $(n(k-1)-1)$ , see figure 4.

**Subcase (1.3)** Let  $u = x_{21}, v = x_{22}, w = x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $(n(k-1)-1)$ , see figure 5.

**Case 2.** If  $u, v \in H_{ij}, w \notin H_{ij}, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Again, we may assume  $i = 1, j = 1$  such that  $u, v \in H_{11}$  and  $w \notin H_{11}$ . Then there are two subcases :

**Subcase (2.1)** Let  $u = x_{11}, v = x_{21}, w = x_{12}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $(n(k-1)-1)$ , see figure 6.



**Subcase (2.2)** Let  $u = x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{31}$ ,  $w = x_{12}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $\left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor$ , see figure 7.

**Case 3.** If  $u \in H_{ij}$ ,  $v, w \notin H_{ij}$ ,  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Assume  $i = 1, j = 1$  such that  $u \in H_{11}$ ,  $v, w \notin H_{11}$ . Then there are two subcases:

**Subcase (3.1)** Let  $u = x_{11}$ ,  $v = x_{12}$ ,  $w = x_{13}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $(n(k-1))$ , see figure 8.

**Subcase (3.2)** Let  $u = x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{12}$ ,  $w = x_{13}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees connecting  $S$  in  $H$  is  $(n(k-1)-1)$ , see figure 9.

For the three cases we get  $\left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor \leq \kappa(S) \leq (n(k-1))$ , then we deduce that

$$\kappa_3(K_k(n)) \geq \left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor. \text{ Thus } \left\lfloor \frac{(2k-3)n}{2} \right\rfloor \leq \kappa_3(K_k(n)) \leq n(k-1)-1. \quad \blacksquare$$

**Theorem 3.4 :** Let  $L(K_k(n))$  be the line graph of the complete  $k$ -partite graph with  $k, n \geq 3$ , then the generalized 3-connectivity of  $L(K_k(n))$  is  $2((k-1)n-2) \leq \kappa_3(L(K_k(n))) \leq 2((k-1)n-2)+1$ .

**Proof:** Let  $R = L(K_k(n))$  and  $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^n L(H_{ij}) \right)$ , from lemma (3.2) we have  $R \cong M$ . Since the degree of any vertex in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2)) + 2$ , then  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2)) + 2$ -regular graph, by the proposition (2.2) we have  $\kappa_3(L(M)) \leq 2((k-1)n-2) + 1$ . For completing the proof we just need to show that for any 3-subset  $S = \{u, v, w\} \subseteq V(M)$ , there exist  $2((k-1)n-2) - 2$  internally disjoint Steiner trees connecting  $S$  in  $M$ . Since  $L(H_{1j}) = L(H_{2j}) = \dots = L(H_{kj}) = K_{(k-1)n}$ ,  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,  $L(H_{1j}) \cong \dots \cong L(H_{ij})$ , then we have three cases:

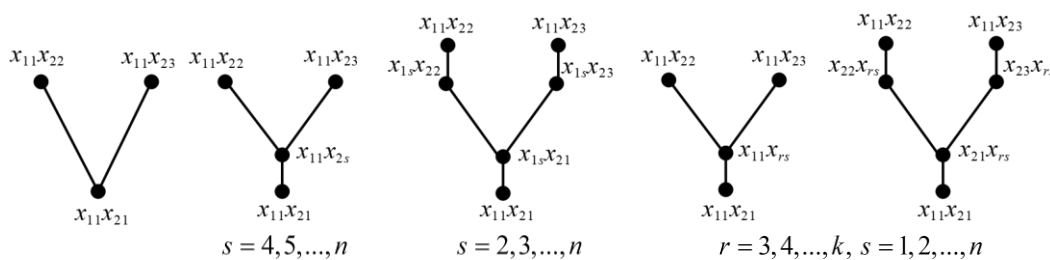


Figure 10

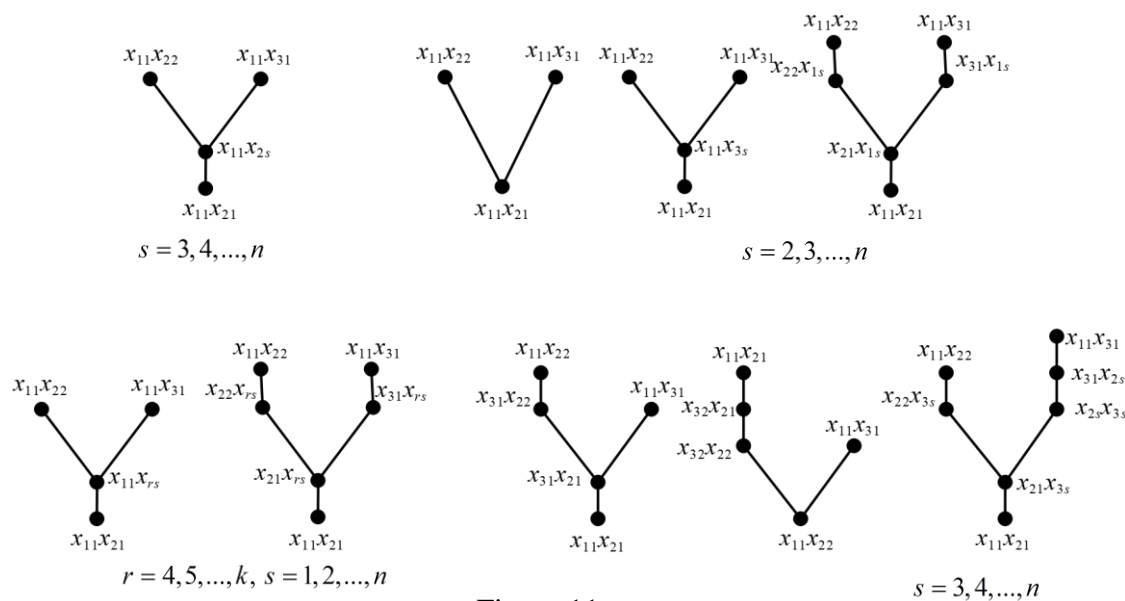


Figure 11

**Case 1.** If  $u, v, w \in L(H_{ij})$ ,  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Without loss of generality we assume  $i = 1, j = 1$ , such that  $u, v, w \in L(H_{11})$ . Then there are two subcases :

**Subcase 1.1** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{22}$ ,  $w = x_{11}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2)) + 1$ , see figure 10.

**Subcase 1.2** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{22}$ ,  $w = x_{11}x_{31}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2)) + 1$ , see figure 11.

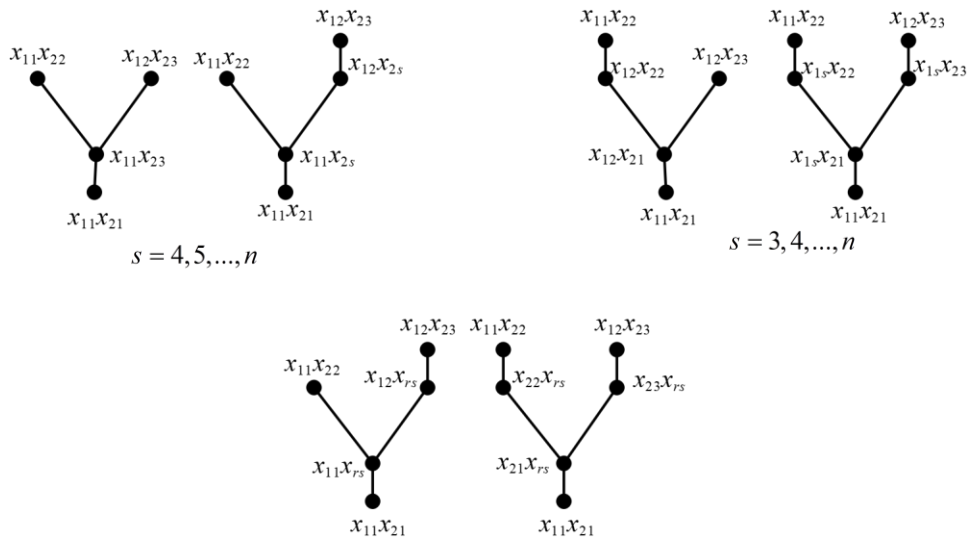


Figure 12

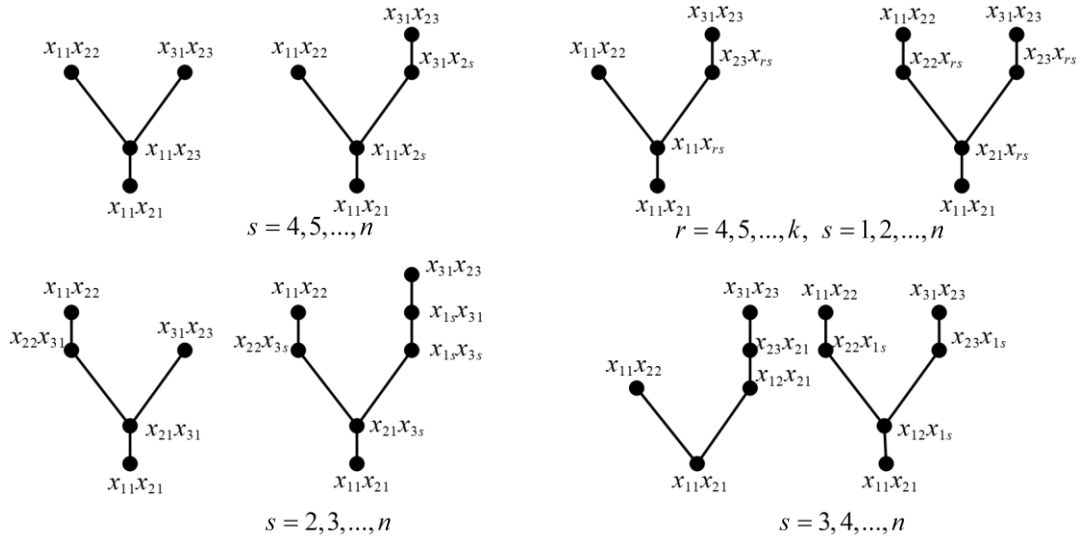


Figure 13

**Case 2.** If  $u, v \in L(H_{ij})$ ,  $w \notin L(H_{ij})$ ,  $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Again assume  $i = 1, j = 1$ , such that  $u, v \in L(H_{11})$ ,  $w \notin L(H_{11})$ . Then there are four subcases :

**Subcase 2.1** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{22}$ ,  $w = x_{12}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))+1$ , see figure 12.

**Subcase 2.2** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{22}$ ,  $w = x_{31}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))+1$ , see figure 13.



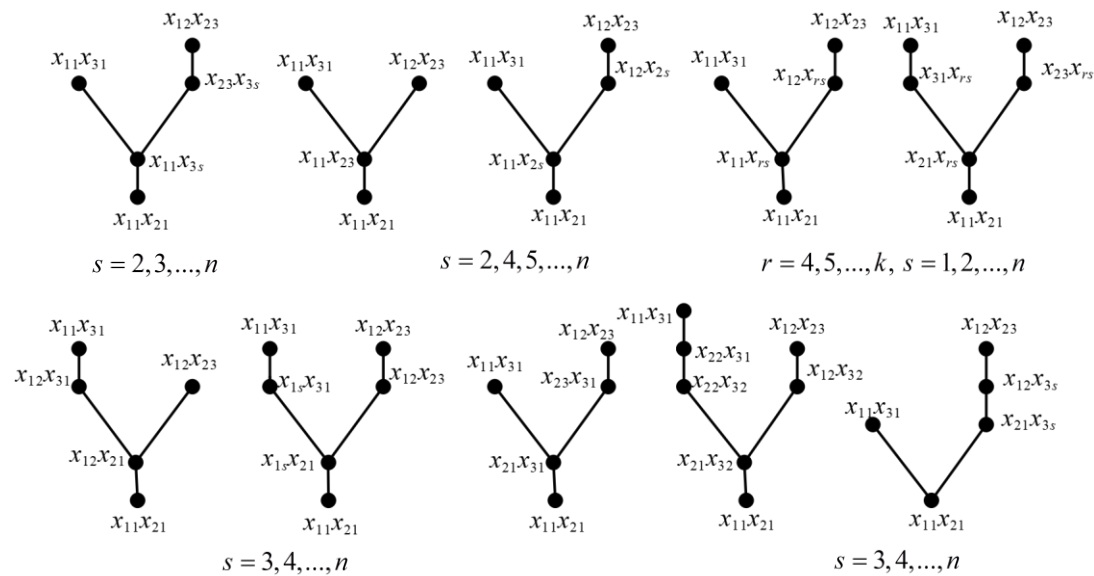


Figure 14

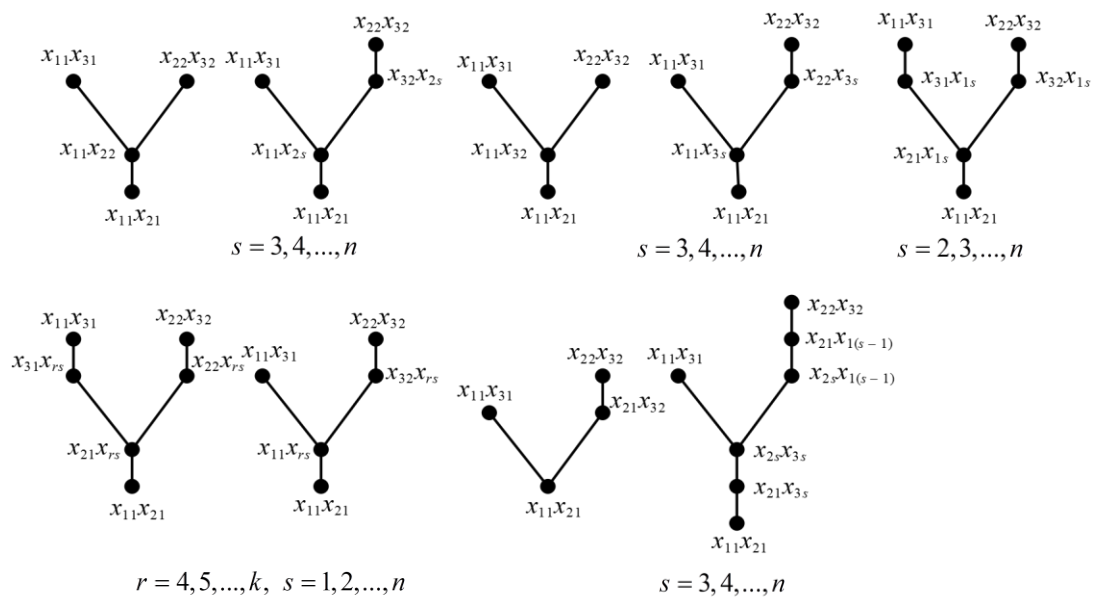


Figure 15

**Subcase 2.3** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{22}$ ,  $w = x_{11}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))+1$ , see figure 14.

**Subcase 2.4** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}$ ,  $v = x_{11}x_{31}$ ,  $w = x_{22}x_{32}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))$ , see figure 15.

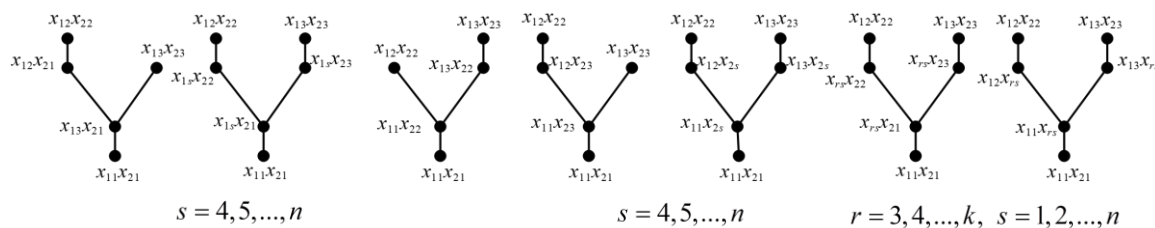


Figure 16

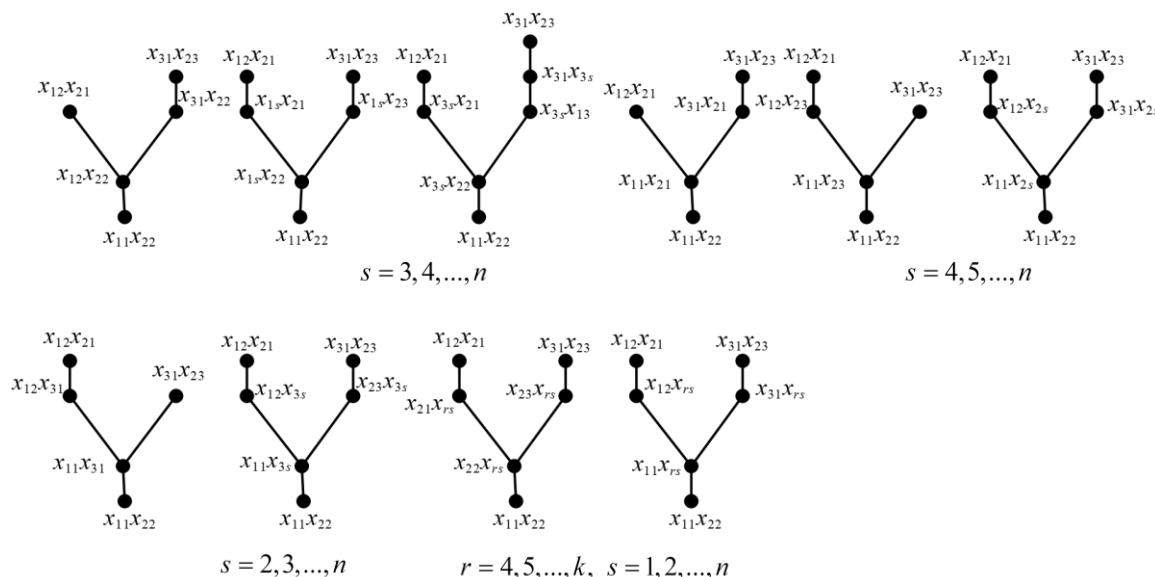


Figure 17

**Case 3.** If  $u \in L(H_{ij}), v, w \notin L(H_{ij}), \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Assume  $i = 1, j = 1$  such that  $u \in L(H_{ij}), v, w \notin L(H_{ij})$ . Then there are two subcases:

**Subcase 3.1** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{21}, v = x_{12}x_{22}, w = x_{13}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))+1$ , see figure 16.

**Subcase 3.2** Let  $u = x_{11}x_{22}, v = x_{21}x_{12}, w = x_{31}x_{23}$ . Then the maximum number of internally disjoint S-trees of connecting  $S$  in  $M$  is  $(2((k-1)n-2))$ , see figure 17.

From the cases that we discussed we get  $2((k-1)n-2) \leq \kappa(S) \leq 2((k-1)n-2)+1$ . Then  $\kappa_3(L(K_k(n))) \geq 2((k-1)n-2)$ . Therefore  $2((k-1)n-2) \leq \kappa_3(L(K_k(n))) \leq 2((k-1)n-2)+1$ . ■

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### اتصال 3- المعمم للبيان الجزئي k- التام المتساوي ولبيانه الخطي

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قسم الرياضيات , كلية العلوم , جامعة البصرة

#### المستخلص

للحصول على مجموعة رؤوس  $V$  من اصل 2 على الاقل في البيان  $G$  فإننا بحاجة الى شجرة من اجل توصيل المجموعة, حيث عادة ما تسمى هذه الشجرة بشجرة ستاينر ربط  $S$  ( او شجرة  $S$  ) يقال عن شجرتين من اشجار ستاينر مثل  $T, T'$  انهما منفصلتان داخليا اذا كان  $E(T) \cap E(T') = \emptyset, V(T) \cap V(T') = S$ . لتكن  $\kappa_G(S)$  تشير الى الحد الاقصى لعدد اشجار ستاينر المنفصلة داخليا والتي تربط  $S$  في  $G$ . اتصال k المعمم  $\kappa(G)$  للبيان  $G$  والذي تم تقديمه من قبل الباحث Chartrand (1984) يعرف بأنه  $\kappa_k(G) = \min\{\kappa_G(S) : S \subseteq V(G) \text{ and } |S| = k\}$ . في هذا البحث حددنا اتصال 3 المعمم للبيان الجزئي k التام المتساوي ولبيانه الخطي.