*Intern. J. Fuzzy Mathematical Archive Vol. 10, No. 2, 2016, 125-129 ISSN: 2320 – 3242 (P), 2320 – 3250 (online) Published on 11 May 2016 www.researchmathsci.org* 

International Journal of
<b>Fuzzy Mathematical</b>
Årchive

## **Results on Labeled Path and its Iterated Line Graphs**

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Received 1 May 2016; accepted 10 May 2016

Abstract. In this paper, we present results on labeled path and its iterated line graphs.

*Keywords*: labeled path, line graph, iterated line graph

AMS Mathematics Subject Classification (2010): 05C72

## **1. Introduction**

All graphs considered here are finite, undirected and without loops or multiple lines. We use the terminology of [2].

The line graph of *G*, denoted L(G), is the intersection graph  $\Omega(X)$ . Thus the points of L(G) are the lines of *G*, with two points of L(G) are adjacent whenever the corresponding lines of *G* are adjacent. We write  $L^{1}(G)=L(G)$ ,  $L^{2}(G)=L(L(G))$ , and in general the iterated line graph is  $L^{n}(G)=L(L^{n-1}(G))$ . Many other graph valued functions in graph theory were studied, for example, in [4-10].

The following will be useful in the proof and discussion of our results.

Theorem A. [1, p.273] Let G be a graph with p points and q lines. Then

- (i) The degree in L(G) of a line vw of G is deg v+deg w-2;
- (*ii*)  $L(P_p) \cong P_{p-l}, \text{ for } p \ge l.$

**Theorem B.** [3] A connected graph with  $p \ge 2$  points is a nonempty path if and only if

$$\sum_{i=1}^{p} d_i^2 = 4p - 6.$$

## 2. Results on labeled graphs

In the following theorem, we deduce an equality satisfying the degree of any point of an iterated line graph of a labeled path.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $P_n$  be a path with  $n (n \ge 2)$  points labeled by 1,2,...,n in sequence. Then the degree of the point  $u_k^m$ , the  $k^{th}$  point of an iterated line graph  $L^m(P_n)$ , where  $1 \le k \le (n-m)$  and  $1 \le m \le n$  satisfies the following equalities;

$$du_{k}^{m} = d_{k} + {\binom{m}{1}} d_{k+1} + {\binom{m}{2}} d_{k+2} + \dots + {\binom{m}{m-1}} d_{k+m-1} + {\binom{m}{m}} d_{k+m} - 2^{m+1} + 2$$
  
=0 when k=1 and m=n-1  
=1 when k=1 or k= n-m

=2 when 1 < k < (n-m), where  $d_i$  ( $k \le i \le k+m$ ) is the degree of an  $i^{th}$  point of  $P_n$ . **Proof:** Suppose  $P_n$  is a path with n ( $n \ge 2$ ) points labeled by 1,2,...,n in sequence such that  $d_1 = d_n = 1$  and  $d_2 = d_3 = ... = d_{n-1} = 2$ . Let  $u_k^m$ ,  $1 \le k \le (n-m)$  be the  $k^{th}$  point of an iterated line graph  $L^m(P_n), 1 \le m < n$ . We prove the result by using mathematical induction on m.

Suppose m=1. Then by Theorem A,  $L^1(P_n) = L(P_n) = P_{n-1}$ . Label these (n-1) points by  $u_1^1, u_2^1, ..., u_{n-1}^1$  in order that the points  $u_1^1, u_2^1, ..., u_{n-1}^1$  represents the lines (1,2), (2,3), ..., (n-1,n) of  $P_n$  respectively. By Theorem A, the degree in L(G) of a line (v,w) of G is  $d_v + d_w - 2$ . Thus,

$$du_{1}^{1} = d_{1} + d_{2} - 2 = d_{1} + {\binom{1}{1}} d_{2} - 2^{1+1} + 2 = 1$$

$$du_{2}^{1} = d_{2} + d_{3} - 2 = d_{2} + {\binom{1}{1}} d_{3} - 2^{1+1} + 2 = 2$$

$$du_{n-2}^{1} = d_{n-2} + d_{n-1} - 2 = d_{n-2} + {\binom{1}{1}} d_{n-1} - 2^{1+1} + 2 = 2$$

$$du_{n-1}^{1} = d_{n-1} + d_{n} - 2 = d_{n-1} + {\binom{1}{1}} d_{n} - 2^{1+1} + 2 = 1,$$
Since  $d_{1} = d_{n} = 1$  and  $d_{2} = d_{3} = ... = d_{n-1} = 2.$ 
In general,  $du_{k}^{1} = d_{k} + {\binom{1}{1}} d_{k+1} - 2^{1+1} + 2$ 

$$= 1 \text{ when } k = 1 \text{ or } k = n - 1$$

$$= 2 \text{ when } 1 < k < (n-1).$$
Hence the result is true for  $m = 1$ .
Suppose  $m = 2$ . Then  $L^{2}(P_{n}) = L(L(P_{n})) = L(P_{n-1}) = P_{n-2}.$  Label these  $(n-2)$  points by  $u_{1}^{2}, u_{2}^{2}, ..., u_{n-2}^{2}$  in order that the points  $u_{1}^{2}, u_{2}^{2}, ..., u_{n-2}^{2}$  represents the lines

 $(u_1^1, u_2^1), (u_2^1, u_3^1), \dots, (u_{n-2}^1, u_{n-1}^1)$  of  $L(P_n)$  respectively.

$$du_1^2 = du_1^1 + du_2^1 - 2$$
  
=  $(d_1 + d_2 - 2) + (d_2 + d_3 - 2) - 2$   
(From the above case when  $m=1$ )  
=  $d_1 + 2d_2 + d_3 - 6$ 

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$$= d_{1} + {\binom{2}{1}} d_{2} + {\binom{2}{2}} d_{3} - 2^{2+1} + 2 = 1.$$
  
Now,  $du_{2}^{2} = du_{2}^{1} + du_{3}^{1} - 2$   

$$= (d_{2} + d_{3} - 2) + (d_{3} + d_{4} - 2) - 2$$
  

$$= d_{2} + 2d_{3} + d_{4} - 6$$
  

$$= d_{2} + {\binom{2}{1}} d_{3} + {\binom{2}{2}} d_{4} - 2^{2+1} + 2 = 2$$
  
Similarly,  $du_{n-3}^{2} = d_{n-3} + {\binom{2}{1}} d_{n-2} + {\binom{2}{2}} d_{n-1} - 2^{2+1} + 2 = 2$   

$$du_{n-2}^{2} = d_{n-2} + {\binom{2}{1}} d_{n-1} + {\binom{2}{2}} d_{n} - 2^{2+1} + 2 = 1,$$
  
Since  $d_{1} = d_{n} = 1$  and  $d_{2} = d_{3} = \cdots = d_{n-1} = 2.$ 

Since  $d_1 = d_n = 1$  and  $d_2 = d_3 = \dots = d_{n-1} = 2$ . In general,  $du_k^2 = d_k + {\binom{2}{1}} d_{k+1} + {\binom{2}{2}} d_{k+2} - 2^{2+1} + 2$ =1 when k=1 or k=n-2=2 when 1 < k < (n-2).

Hence the result is true for m=2.

Assume the result is true for  $L^{m-1}(P_n)$ , where 1<m<n.

We now prove the result is true for  $L^m(P_n)$ . By Theorem A,  $L^m(P_n) = L(L^{m-1}(P_n))$  and  $L^m(P_n)$  has (n-m) points, where m < n. Label these (n-m) points by  $u_1^m, u_2^m, ..., u_{n-m}^m$  in order that the points  $u_1^m, u_2^m, ..., u_{n-m}^m$  represents the lines  $(u_1^{m-1}, u_2^{m-1}), (u_2^{m-1}, u_3^{m-1}), ..., (u_{n-m}^{m-1}, u_{n-m+1}^{m-1})$  of  $L^{m-1}(P_n)$  respectively. By inductive hypothesis, we have

$$du_{k}^{m-1} = d_{k} + {\binom{m-1}{1}} d_{k+1} + {\binom{m-1}{2}} d_{k+2} + \dots + {\binom{m-1}{m-1}} d_{k+m-1} - 2^{m} + 2$$
  

$$\neq 0, \text{ since } m < n \text{ that is } m-1 \neq n-1$$
  

$$=1 \text{ when } k=1 \text{ or } k=n-(m-1)$$
  

$$=2 \text{ when } 1 < k < (n-(m-1)).$$
  
Consider,  

$$du_{1}^{m} = du_{1}^{m-1} + du_{2}^{m-1} - 2$$
  

$$du_{1}^{m} = du_{1}^{m-1} + du_{2}^{m-1} - 2$$

$$= d_{1} + {\binom{m-1}{1}} d_{2} + {\binom{m-1}{2}} d_{3} + \dots + {\binom{m-1}{m-1}} d_{m} - 2^{m} + 2$$
  
+  $d_{2} + {\binom{m-1}{1}} d_{3} + {\binom{m-1}{2}} d_{4} + \dots + {\binom{m-1}{m-2}} d_{m} + {\binom{m-1}{m-1}} d_{m+1} - 2^{m} + 2 - 2$ 

 $= d_{1} + \left[ \binom{m-1}{0} + \binom{m-1}{1} \right] d_{2} + \left[ \binom{m-1}{1} + \binom{m-1}{2} \right] d_{3} + \dots + \left[ \binom{m-1}{m-2} + \binom{m-1}{m-1} \right] d_{m} \\ + \binom{m-1}{m-1} d_{m+1} - 2 \cdot 2^{m} + 4 - 2.$ We know that  $\binom{m}{r-1} + \binom{m}{r} = \binom{m+1}{r}$  and  $\binom{m}{m} = \binom{m+1}{m+1} = 1.$ Therefore,  $du_{1}^{m} = d_{1} + \binom{m}{1} d_{2} + \binom{m}{2} d_{3} + \dots + \binom{m}{m-1} d_{m} + \binom{m}{m} d_{m+1} - 2^{m+1} + 2.$ Similarly,  $du_{n-m}^{m} = d_{n-m} + \binom{m}{1} d_{n-m+1} + \binom{m}{2} d_{n-m+2} + \dots + \binom{m}{m} d_{m+n-m} - 2^{m+1} + 2.$ In general,  $du_{k}^{m} = d_{k} + \binom{m}{1} d_{k+1} + \binom{m}{2} d_{k+2} + \dots + \binom{m}{m-1} d_{k+m-1} + \binom{m}{m} d_{k+m} - 2^{m+1} + 2$ =0 when k=1 and m=n-1=1 when k=1 or k=n-m=2 when 1 < k < (n-m). This completes the proof of the theorem.

**Corollary 2.** Let  $P_n$  be a path with  $n \ (n \ge 2)$  points labeled by 1, 2, ..., n in sequence. Then the degree of an isolated point u of the  $(n-1)^{ih}$  iterated line graph  $L^{n-1}(P_n)$  satisfies the following condition;

$$du = d_1 + {\binom{n-1}{1}} d_2 + {\binom{n-2}{2}} d_3 + \dots + {\binom{n-1}{n-2}} d_{n-1} + {\binom{n-1}{n-1}} d_n - 2^n + 2 = 0, \text{ where } d_i \ (1 \le i \le n) \text{ is the degree of an } i^{th} \text{ point of } P_n.$$

**Illustration 3.** The above Corollary is illustrated by taking a path with 5 points. The points of the path and its iterated line graphs are labeled as shown in Figure 1.





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By Theorem A, the degree in L(G) of a line vw of G is  $d_v + d_w - 2$ . Now consider,

$$de_{1} = de_{1} + de_{2} - 2$$
  
=  $(de_{1}^{'} + de_{2}^{'} - 2) + (de_{2}^{'} + de_{3}^{'} - 2) - 2$   
=  $de_{1}^{'} + 2de_{2}^{'} + de_{3}^{'} - 6$   
=  $(de_{1} + de_{2} - 2) + 2(de_{2} + de_{3} - 2) + (de_{3} + de_{4} - 2) - 6$   
=  $de_{1} + 3de_{2} + 3de_{3} + de_{4} - 14$   
=  $(d_{1} + d_{2} - 2) + 3(d_{2} + d_{3} - 2) + 3(d_{3} + d_{4} - 2) + (d_{4} + d_{5} - 2) - 14$   
=  $d_{1} + 4d_{2} + 6d_{3} + 4d_{4} + d_{5} - 30$ .  
Since  $d_{1} = d_{5} = 1$  and  $d_{2} = d_{3} = d_{4} = 2$ , we have  
 $de_{1}^{'''} = d_{1} + {4 \choose 1} d_{2} + {4 \choose 2} d_{3} + \dots + {4 \choose 3} d_{4} + {4 \choose 4} d_{5} - 2^{5} + 2 = 0$ .

The Theorem B and Theorem 1 lead to the following result:

**Theorem 4.** Let  $P_n$  be a path with  $n \ (n \ge 2)$  points labeled by 1, 2,..., n in sequence and  $u_k^m$  be the  $k^{th}$  point of  $L^m(P_n)$ , where  $1 \le k \le (n-m)$ ,  $1 \le m < n$  and  $m \ne n-1$ . Then  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-m} du_k^m = 4(n-m) - 6$ .

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