

# Invariant Factors of Cartesian Product of Graphs and One Point Unions of Graphs

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## Abstract

A matrix called Varchenko matrix associated with a hyperplane arrangement was defined by Varchenko in 1991. Matrices that we shall call  $q$ -matrices are induced from Varchenko matrices. Many researchers are interested the invariant factors of these  $q$ -matrices. Shiu put this problem to the graph model. In this paper, invariant factors of Cartesian product of graphs will be found.

**Keywords** :  $q$ -matrix, invariant factors, Cartesian product of graphs,  
one point unions of graphs

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## 1 Introduction

In 1991, Schechtman and Varchenko defined a square matrix called Varchenko matrix, which is associated with a hyperplane arrangement [7, 10]. A  $q$ -matrix, which is a square matrix over the Euclidean domain  $\mathbb{Q}[q]$ , that is induced from Varchenko matrix. Following is a brief description of it. Please see [3, 8] for detail.

Let  $\mathfrak{H}$  be an arrangement of hyperplanes in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $r(\mathfrak{H})$  be the set of regions in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  induced by the hyperplanes and  $B$  be the Varchenko matrix of  $\mathfrak{H}$  [9]. If we set all the weights assigned to hyperplanes to be  $q$ , then  $B$  becomes a matrix, say  $Q$ , whose entries are in  $\mathbb{Q}[q]$ . Shiu [8] called this matrix  $Q$  the  $q$ -matrix of  $\mathfrak{H}$ . Namely, for any  $R_i, R_j \in r(\mathfrak{H})$ , the  $(i, j)$ -entry (or the  $(R_i, R_j)$ -entry) of  $Q$  is given by  $Q_{i,j} = q^{n(R_i, R_j)}$ , where  $n(R_i, R_j)$  is the number of hyperplanes in  $\mathfrak{H}$  which separate  $R_i$  from  $R_j$ . So we can found the Smith normal form of a  $q$ -matrix. Entries appearing in the diagonal of a Smith normal form of the  $q$ -matrix are called invariant factors. Applications of invariant factors of a  $q$ -matrix can be found in [3].

Given an arrangement of hyperplanes  $\mathfrak{H}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we define a graph  $G(\mathfrak{H})$  whose vertex set is  $r(\mathfrak{H})$ , two vertices (regions) are adjacent if their closures have an  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional common boundary.  $G(\mathfrak{H})$  is called the *graph* of  $\mathfrak{H}$ . It is easy to see that  $G(\mathfrak{H})$  contains no odd cycles, i.e.,  $G(\mathfrak{H})$  is a (connected) bipartite graph. For any  $R_i, R_j \in r(\mathfrak{H}) = V(G(\mathfrak{H}))$ , let  $x \in R_i$  and  $y \in R_j$ . Any connected curve joining  $x$  and  $y$  must pass through all

the hyperplanes in  $\mathfrak{H}$  which separate  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  at least once and there is a connected curve joining  $x$  and  $y$  passing through those hyperplanes exactly once. Thus  $n(R_i, R_j)$  is the distance between  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  in  $G(\mathfrak{H})$ .

Shiu [8] generalized the concept of the  $q$ -matrix to a graph. Let  $G$  be a simple connected graph. Let  $D_G = (d_{i,j})$  (or simply  $D$ ) be the distance matrix of  $G$  under an ordering of vertices. Let  $Q_G(q) = (q^{d_{i,j}})$  (or simply  $Q_G$ ), where  $q$  is an indeterminate.  $Q_G(q)$  is called the  $q$ -matrix of  $G$  (it is unique up to isomorphism). Nonzero invariant factors of  $Q_G(q)$  are called *invariant factors* of  $G$ . Invariant factors of some graphs have been found in [8].

In this paper all graphs are simple and connected. We shall consider invariant factors of a Cartesian product of graphs and one point unions of graphs. All undefined concept and symbols may be looked up from [1] and [5].

The following example was described in [2, 3, 8].

**Example 1.1** For  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , let  $O_i = \{(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k \mid x_i = 0\}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{O}_k = \{O_1, \dots, O_k\}$ . Then  $r(\mathfrak{O}_k)$  has  $2^k$  regions and can be indexed by vectors  $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ , where  $a_i$  is either 1 or  $-1$ .  $\alpha$  corresponds to the region  $R_\alpha$  which contains all points  $(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  where  $x_i < 0$  if and only if  $a_i = -1$ . Then the graph of  $\mathfrak{O}_k$  is isomorphic to the  $k$ -cube  $Q_k$ . Note that  $k$ -cube is the Cartesian product of  $k$  paths of order 2.

## 2 Some properties on Cartesian product of graphs

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two graphs. The *Cartesian product* of  $G$  with  $H$ , denoted by  $G \times H$ , is the graph with vertex set  $V(G) \times V(H)$ . The vertex  $(u_1, v_1)$  is adjacent to  $(u_2, v_2)$  if either  $u_1 = u_2$  and  $v_1 v_2 \in E(H)$  or  $v_1 = v_2$  and  $u_1 u_2 \in E(G)$ . Clearly,  $G \times H$  is isomorphic to  $H \times G$ .

Let  $G$  be a graph. Let  $d_G(\cdot, \cdot)$  be the distance function defined on  $G$ . The following known result can be found in [4, Corollary 1.35].

**Theorem 2.1** Suppose  $G$  and  $H$  are graphs. Let  $(u, v), (x, y) \in V(G \times H)$ . Then

$$d_{G \times H}((u, v), (x, y)) = d_G(u, x) + d_H(v, y).$$

By using the above theorem and some properties of Kronecker product of matrices [6], we have

**Theorem 2.2** Let  $G$  and  $H$  be graphs. Then  $Q_{G \times H} = Q_G \otimes Q_H$ , the Kronecker product of  $Q_G$  and  $Q_H$ .

**Proof:** For any  $(u, v), (x, y) \in V(G \times H)$ . Under the lexicographic order, by Theorem 2.1 we have  $(D_{G \times H})_{(u,v),(x,y)} = (D_G)_{u,x} + (D_H)_{v,y}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (Q_{G \times H})_{(u,v),(x,y)} &= q^{(D_G)_{u,x} + (D_H)_{v,y}} = q^{(D_G)_{u,x}} q^{(D_H)_{v,y}} \\ &= (Q_G \otimes Q_H)_{(u,v),(x,y)}. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

### 3 Finding invariant factors of a Cartesian product of graphs

Let  $Q$  be a  $q$ -matrix of a graph  $G$  of order  $n$ . Then  $Q$  is an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix over  $\mathbb{Q}[q]$ . To find the invariant factors of  $Q$ , Shiu [8] introduced a concept called pre-invariant factors of  $G$ . Following is the definition.

Two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  over a ring  $R$  are called *equivalent* if there are two invertible matrices  $U$  and  $V$  over  $R$  such that  $B = UAV$ . Let  $A$  be a square matrix over a principal ideal domain. If  $A$  is equivalent to a diagonal matrix  $B$ , then the multiset of entries in the diagonal of  $B$  is called a *pre-invariant factor set* of  $A$ . If  $Q$  is a  $q$ -matrix of a graph  $G$ , then the set of nonzero pre-invariant factors of  $Q$  is called a *pre-invariant factor set* of  $G$ . Elements of such set are called *pre-invariant factors* of  $G$ . Note that this set is not unique.

It is known [5] that for any matrix  $A$  over a principal ideal domain,  $A$  is equivalent to a matrix which has the ‘diagonal’ form

$$\begin{pmatrix} s_1 & & & & & \\ & s_2 & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & s_r & & \\ & 0 & & & 0 & \\ & & & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $s_i \neq 0$  and  $s_i | s_j$  if  $i \leq j$ . Such  $s_i$  are called the nonzero *invariant factors* of  $A$ .

In particular, the multiset of invariant factors of a graph  $G$  is a pre-invariant factor set of  $G$ . The multiset of invariant factors is unique and is denoted by  $\text{Inv}(G)$ . In fact, the invariant factors and pre-invariant factors can be defined for non-square matrix. From now on, the term ‘set’ means ‘multiset’.

**Theorem 3.1** ([8, Corollary 2.6]) *Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix of rank  $r$  over a principal ideal domain with nonzero invariant factors  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_r$ ,*

where  $s_i | s_{i+1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r-1$ . Suppose  $\{f_1, \dots, f_r, 0, \dots, 0\}$  is a pre-invariant factor set of  $A$ , where  $f_j \neq 0$ . Let  $\phi$  be an irreducible factor of  $f_1 f_2 \cdots f_r$ . Denote the multiplicities of  $\phi$  in the factors  $f_j$ 's by  $0 \leq a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_r$ . Then the multiplicity of  $\phi$  in  $s_j$  is  $a_j$ .

The sequence  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r\}$  is called the *multiplicity sequence* of  $\phi$ . For a polynomial  $\Phi$ , if the multiplicity sequences of all its irreducible factors are the same, then this sequence is called the *multiplicity sequence* of  $\Phi$ .

Suppose  $S$  and  $T$  are two subsets of a ring. We define

$$S \cdot T = \{st \mid s \in S, t \in T\}.$$

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be graphs. Then a pre-invariant factor set of  $G \times H$  is  $\text{Inv}(G) \cdot \text{Inv}(H)$ .*

**Proof:** There are invertible matrices  $P_1, P'_1$  such that  $P_1 Q_G P'_1$  is equal to a diagonal matrix  $\tilde{Q}_G$ , where the entries in the diagonal of  $\tilde{Q}_G$  are invariant factors of  $G$ . Similarly, there are invertible matrices  $P_2, P'_2$  such that  $P_2 Q_H P'_2$  is equal to a diagonal matrix  $\tilde{Q}_H$ , where the entries in the diagonal of  $\tilde{Q}_H$  are invariant factors of  $H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}_G \otimes \tilde{Q}_H &= (P_1 Q_G P'_1) \otimes (P_2 Q_H P'_2) \\ &= (P_1 \otimes P_2)(Q_G \otimes Q_H)(P'_1 \otimes P'_2) \\ &= (P_1 \otimes P_2) Q_{G \times H} (P'_1 \otimes P'_2). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $P_1 \otimes P_2$  and  $P'_1 \otimes P'_2$  are invertible and  $\tilde{Q}_G \otimes \tilde{Q}_H$  is a diagonal matrix, the entries in the diagonal of  $\tilde{Q}_G \otimes \tilde{Q}_H$  are pre-invariant factors of  $G \times H$ . Hence we have the theorem.  $\square$

By applying Theorem 3.1 to  $\text{Inv}(G) \cdot \text{Inv}(H)$  we can get  $\text{Inv}(G \times H)$ . We shall provide some examples in next section.

## 4 Examples

It is known from [8] that the invariant factors set of the  $n$ -path  $P_n$  is  $\{1, (1 - q^2) [n - 1 \text{ times}]\}$  and that of the  $2s$ -cycle  $C_{2s}$  is  $\{1, (1 - q^2) [s \text{ times}], (1 - q^2)^2, (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2 \text{ times}]\}$ , where  $n \geq 1$  and  $s \geq 2$ . For convenience, we use  $f [m]$  to mean the factor  $f$  appears  $m$  times in a set that it belongs to.

**Example 4.1** Consider the cylinder  $C_{2s} \times P_n$ . We use a table to show  $\text{Inv}(C_{2s}) \cdot \text{Inv}(P_n)$  as follows:

$1 [1]$	$(1 - q^2) [n - 1]$
$(1 - q^2) [s]$	$(1 - q^2)^2 [s(n - 1)]$
$(1 - q^2)^2 [1]$	$(1 - q^2)^3 [n - 1]$
$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2]$	$(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2s}) [n(s - 2)]$

Note that the first column of the above table describes the invariant factors of  $C_{2s}$  and the first row describes the invariant factors of  $P_n$ .

In the bipartite case, the number of appearance of the irreducible factor  $(1 - q)$  in each pre-invariant factor is equal to that of the irreducible factor  $(1 + q)$ . Thus we consider the factor  $(1 - q^2)$  instead of  $(1 - q)$  and  $(1 + q)$ . Write  $(1 - q^{2s}) = (1 - q^2)X$ . Then the number of appearance of each irreducible factor of  $X$  in each pre-invariant factor is the same. Thus we consider the factor  $X$  instead of each irreducible factor of it.

The multiplicity sequence of  $(1 - q^2)$  is

Multiplicity	0	1	2	3
No. of appearance	1	$s + n - 1$	$ns - 1$	$(n - 1)(s - 1)$

and the multiplicity sequence of  $X$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$n(s + 2)$	$n(s - 2)$

Then the invariant factor set of  $C_{2s} \times P_n$  is

- $\{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [s + n - 1], (1 - q^2)^2 [ns - 1], (1 - q^2)^3 [n + 1 - s],$   
 $(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2s}) [n(s - 2)]\}$  if  $2 \leq s \leq n + 1$ ;  
 $\{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [s + n - 1], (1 - q^2)^2 [s(n - 1) + n], (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - n - 1]$   
 $(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2s}) [(n - 1)(s - 1)]\}$  if  $2 \leq n + 1 < s$ .

**Example 4.2** Consider the torus  $C_{2s} \times C_{2t}$ . Then  $\text{Inv}(C_{2s}) \cdot \text{Inv}(C_{2t})$  is

$1 [1]$	$(1 - q^2) [s]$
$(1 - q^2) [t]$	$(1 - q^2)^2 [st]$
$(1 - q^2)^2 [1]$	$(1 - q^2)^3 [s]$
$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2t}) [t - 2]$	$(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2t}) [s(t - 2)]$

$(1 - q^2)^2 [1]$	$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2]$
$(1 - q^2)^3 [t]$	$(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2s}) [t(s - 2)]$
$(1 - q^2)^4 [1]$	$(1 - q^2)^3(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2]$
$(1 - q^2)^3(1 - q^{2t}) [t - 2]$	$(1 - q^2)^2(1 - q^{2s})(1 - q^{2t}) [(s - 2)(t - 2)]$

Note that the first row of the first table describes the first part invariant factors of  $C_{2s}$ , the first row of the second table describes the last part invariant factors of  $C_{2s}$ , and the first column of the first table describes the invariant factors of  $C_{2t}$ .

Similar to Example 4.1 the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $(1 - q^2)$  is listed as follows:

Multiplicity	0	1	2	3	4
No. of appearance	1	$s + t$	$st + s + t - 2$	$2st - s - t$	$(s - 1)(t - 1)$

It is known that  $q^n - 1 = \prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(q)$ , where  $\Phi_d$  is the  $d$ -th cyclotomic polynomial [11]. Let  $g = \text{g.c.d}(s, t)$  and let  $X = \prod_{\substack{d|2s \\ d \nmid 2g}} \Phi_d$ ,  $Y = \prod_{\substack{d|2t \\ d \nmid 2g}} \Phi_d$  and  $Z = \prod_{\substack{d|2g \\ d \neq 1, 2}} \Phi_d$ . Note that  $\Phi_1(q) = q - 1$  and  $\Phi_2(q) = q + 1$ . So  $1 - q^{2s} = (1 - q^2)XZ$  and  $1 - q^{2t} = (1 - q^2)YZ$ .

Any irreducible factor of  $X$  appears in each pre-invariant factor of the same times. It is similarly for  $Y$  and  $Z$ . Therefore, we consider the factors  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  instead of each irreducible factor.

If  $X \neq 1$ , then the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $X$  is are

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$2t(s + 2)$	$2t(s - 2)$

Similarly if  $Y \neq 1$ , then the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Y$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$2s(t + 2)$	$2s(t - 2)$

If  $Z \neq 1$ , then the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Z$  is

Multiplicity	0	1	2
No. of appearance	$2(s + t) + st + 4$	$2st - 8$	$(s - 2)(t - 2)$

For convenience, when  $X = 1$ ,  $Y = 1$  and  $Z = 1$ , we adapt the above results as degenerated cases.

Without loss of generality, we let  $s \geq t$ .

Case 1. Suppose  $s = t = 2$ . In this case  $X = Y = Z = 1$ . It is easy to see that

$$\text{Inv}(C_4 \times C_4) = \{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [4], (1 - q^2)^2 [6], (1 - q^2)^3 [4], (1 - q^2)^4 [1]\}.$$

Case 2. Suppose  $s > t = 2$ . In this case,  $Y$  is either 1 if  $g = 2$  or  $\Phi_4 = (q^2 + 1)$  if  $g = 1$ . For the last case,  $s$  is odd and  $Y$  does not appear as a factor of any pre-invariant factor in  $\text{Inv}(C_s) \cdot \text{Inv}(C_4)$ .

It is easy to compute that the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $(1 - q^2)$  is

Multiplicity	0	1	2	3	4
No. of appearance	1	$s + 2$	$3s$	$3s - 2$	$s - 1$

and the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $X$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$4s + 8$	$4s - 8$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Inv}(C_{2s} \times C_4) = \{ & 1 [1], (1 - q^2) [s + 2], (1 - q^2)^2 [3s], \\ & (1 - q^2)^3 [5], (1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s}) [3s - 7], \\ & (1 - q^2)^3 (1 - q^{2s}) [s - 1] \}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 3. Suppose  $s \geq t \geq 3$ . Then the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $X$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$2t(s + 2)$	$2t(s - 2)$

the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Y$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$2s(t + 2)$	$2s(t - 2)$

and the multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Z$  is

Multiplicity	0	1	2
No. of appearance	$2(s + t) + st + 4$	$2st - 8$	$(s - 2)(t - 2)$

Then the invariant factors of  $C_{2s} \times C_{2t}$  are shown below:

Invariant factor in terms of $X, Y, Z$	Invariant factor	Number of appearance
1	1	1
$(1 - q^2)$	$(1 - q^2)$	$s + t$
$(1 - q^2)^2$	$(1 - q^2)^2$	$st + s + t - 2$
$(1 - q^2)^3$	$(1 - q^2)^3$	5
$(1 - q^2)^3 Z$	$(1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2g})$	$(s + 2)(t - 2)$
$(1 - q^2)^3 XZ$	$(1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s})$	$4(s - t)$
$(1 - q^2)^3 XYZ$	$\frac{(1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s})(1 - q^{2t})}{(1 - q^{2g})}$	$st - 3s + t - 1$
$(1 - q^2)^4 XYZ$	$\frac{(1 - q^2)^3 (1 - q^{2s})(1 - q^{2t})}{(1 - q^{2g})}$	$s + t - 3$
$(1 - q^2)^4 XYZ^2$	$(1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s})(1 - q^{2t})$	$(s - 2)(t - 2)$

In particular, when  $s = t \geq 3$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Inv}(C_{2s} \times C_{2s}) = \{ & 1 [1], (1 - q^2) [2s], (1 - q^2)^2 [s^2 + 2s - 2], \\ & (1 - q^2)^3 [5], (1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s}) [2s^2 - 2s - 5], \\ & (1 - q^2)^3 (1 - q^{2s}) [2s - 3], \\ & (1 - q^2)^2 (1 - q^{2s})^2 [(s - 2)^2] \}. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 4.3** Consider the  $k$ -dimensional grid  $P_{n_1} \times \cdots \times P_{n_k}$ . Since any pre-invariant factor in  $\text{Inv}(P_{n_1}) \cdots \text{Inv}(P_{n_k})$  is of the form  $(1 - q^2)^j$  for some  $j \geq 0$ ,  $\text{Inv}(P_{n_1} \times \cdots \times P_{n_k}) = \text{Inv}(P_{n_1}) \cdots \text{Inv}(P_{n_k})$ . We shall use the generating function  $f_n = 1 + (n - 1)x$  as an enumerator of  $\text{Inv}(P_n)$ . Then the generating function of  $\text{Inv}(P_{n_1}) \cdots \text{Inv}(P_{n_k})$  is  $f_{n_1} \cdots f_{n_k} = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^k a_j x^j$ ,

$$\text{where } a_j = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_j \leq k} \left( \prod_{l=1}^j (n_{i_l} - 1) \right).$$

Note that if we replace  $P_{n_i}$  by  $T_{n_i}$ , a tree of order  $n_i$ , then we will get the same result. Suppose  $n_1 = \cdots = n_k = n$ . Then the invariant factor set of  $\underbrace{P_n \times \cdots \times P_n}_{k \text{ times}}$  is

$$\{ 1 [1], (1 - q^2) \left[ \binom{k}{1} (n - 1) \right], \dots, (1 - q^2)^j \left[ \binom{k}{j} (n - 1)^j \right], \dots, (1 - q^2)^k [(n - 1)^k] \}.$$

In particular,

$$\text{Inv}(Q_k) = \{ 1 [1], (1 - q^2) [k], \dots, (1 - q^2)^j \left[ \binom{k}{j} \right], \dots, (1 - q^2)^k [1] \}.$$



So the invariant factors of the hyperplane arrangement described in Example 1.1 has been found.

## 5 Finding invariant factors of one point unions of graphs

Suppose two graphs  $G$  and  $H$  have exactly one common vertex. Then the union of these two graphs is called a *one point union* of  $G$  and  $H$  and denoted by  $G \cdot H$ . Clearly,  $G \cdot H$  is isomorphic to  $H \cdot G$ . Suppose  $G_i$  are graphs,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We use the notation  $G_1 \cdot G_2 \cdots G_n$  to denote  $(G_1 \cdot G_2 \cdots G_{n-1}) \cdot G_n$ , which is called a *one point unions* of graphs  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ .

In this section we will extend the following theorem which is described in [8].

**Theorem 5.1** ([8, Theorem 4.2]) *Suppose  $H$  and  $K$  are graphs. Then  $\text{Inv}(H) \cup \text{Inv}(K) \setminus \{1\}$  is a pre-invariant factor set of  $H \cdot K$ .*

**Corollary 5.2** *Let  $H_i$  be graphs,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Then a pre-invariant factor set of  $H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdots H_n$  is  $\left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{Inv}(H_i) \right) \setminus \{1 [n-1]\}$ .*

**Proof:** Suppose  $n = 3$ . By Theorem 5.1  $S = \text{Inv}(H_1) \cup \text{Inv}(H_2) \setminus \{1\}$  is a pre-invariant factor set of  $H_1 \cdot H_2$ . From  $S$  we can get  $\text{Inv}(H_1 \cdot H_2)$ . By Theorem 5.1 again,  $\text{Inv}(H_1 \cdot H_2) \cup \text{Inv}(H_3) \setminus \{1\}$  is a pre-invariant factor set of  $H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3$ . Since the multiplicity sequence of each irreducible factor is unique, we can replace  $\text{Inv}(H_1 \cdot H_2)$  by  $S$  to be a part of pre-invariant set. Then  $S \cup \text{Inv}(H_3) \setminus \{1\} = \text{Inv}(H_1) \cup \text{Inv}(H_2) \cup \text{Inv}(H_3) \setminus \{1, 1\}$  is also a pre-invariant factor set of  $H_1 \cdot H_2 \cdot H_3$ .

For the general case is just applying Theorem 5.1 repeatedly. □

**Example 5.1** Consider  $C_{2s} \cdot C_{2t}$  for  $s \geq t \geq 2$ . By Theorem 5.1 a pre-invariant set of  $C_{2s} \cdot C_{2t}$  is  $\{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [s + t], (1 - q^2)^2 [2], (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2], (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2t}) [t - 2]\}$ .

Let  $X, Y, Z$  be defined as in Example 4.2. Similar to the previous examples, we have the multiplicity sequences of the above factors.

The multiplicity sequence of the factor  $(1 - q^2)$  is

Multiplicity	0	1	2
No. of appearance	1	$s + t$	$s + t - 2$

The multiplicity sequence of the factor  $X$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$s + 2t + 1$	$s - 2$

The multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Y$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$t + 2s + 1$	$t - 1 + 2$

The multiplicity sequence of the factor  $Z$  is

Multiplicity	0	1
No. of appearance	$s + t + 3$	$s + t - 4$

If  $s \geq t = 2$ , then  $Y$  does not appear as a factor of any pre-invariant factor. It is easy to find that

$$\{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [s + 2], (1 - q^2)^2 [2], (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [s - 2]\}$$

is the invariant factor set of  $C_{2s} \cdot C_4$ .

If  $s \geq t \geq 3$ , then

Invariant factor in terms of $X, Y, Z$	Invariant factor	Number of appearance
1	1	1
$(1 - q^2)$	$(1 - q^2)$	$s + t$
$(1 - q^2)^2$	$(1 - q^2)^2$	2
$(1 - q^2)^2 Z$	$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2g})$	$t - 2$
$(1 - q^2)^2 XZ$	$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s})$	$s - t$
$(1 - q^2)^2 XYZ$	$(1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s})(1 - q^{2t})/(1 - q^{2g})$	$t - 2$

**Example 5.2** Consider the graph  $\overbrace{C_{2s} \cdot C_{2s} \cdots C_{2s}}^{n \text{ times}}$ , where  $s \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 1$ . Then the multiplicity sequence of  $(1 - q^2)$  is  $\{0 [1], 1 [ns], 2 [n(s - 1)]\}$  and that of  $X$  is  $\{0 [ns + n + 1], 1 [n(s - 2)]\}$ . Therefore, the invariance factor set of  $\overbrace{C_{2s} \cdot C_{2s} \cdots C_{2s}}^{n \text{ times}}$  is

$$\{1 [1], (1 - q^2) [ns], (1 - q^2)^2 [n], (1 - q^2)(1 - q^{2s}) [n(s - 2)]\}.$$

Even though the complete graph  $K_n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) is not bipartite, we can also consider its invariant factors. From [8], it is known that for  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$\text{Inv}(K_n) = \{1 [1], (1 - q) [n - 2], (1 - q)(1 + (n - 1)q) [1]\}.$$

**Example 5.3** Consider the graph  $K_{m_1} \cdot K_{m_2} \cdots K_{m_n}$ . Suppose  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \cdots \geq n_t$  are the multiplicities of the distinct values  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t$

of  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$ , respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
& \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{Inv}(K_{m_i}) \setminus \{1 [n-1]\} \\
&= \{1, (1-q) \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n (m_i - 2) \right], (1-q)(1 + (m_1 - 1)q) [1], \dots, \\
&\quad (1-q)(1 + (m_n - 1)q) [1]\} \\
&= \{1, (1-q) \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^n n_i r_i \right) - 2n \right], (1-q)(1 + (r_1 - 1)q) [n_1], \dots, \\
&\quad (1-q)(1 + (r_t - 1)q) [n_t]\}
\end{aligned}$$

Now we have the multiplicity sequence of  $(1-q)$  is

$$\{0 [1], 1 [n_1 + \dots + n_t r_t - n]\}$$

and that of  $1 + (r_i - 1)q$  is

$$\{0 [n_1 r_1 + \dots + n_t r_t - n + 1 - n_i], 1 [n_i]\},$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq t$ . Therefore, the invariant factor set of  $K_{m_1} \cdot K_{m_2} \cdots K_{m_n}$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \{1 [1], (1-q) [n_1 r_1 + \dots + n_t r_t - n - n_1], \\
& \quad (1-q)(1 + (r_1 - 1)q) [n_1 - n_2], \\
& \quad (1-q)(1 + (r_1 - 1)q)(1 + (r_2 - 1)q) [n_2 - n_3], \\
& \quad \vdots \\
& \quad (1-q)(1 + (r_1 - 1)q) \cdots (1 - (r_{t-1} - 1)q) [n_{t-1} - n_t], \\
& \quad (1-q)(1 + (r_1 - 1)q) \cdots (1 - (r_{t-1} - 1)q)(1 - (r_t - 1)q) [n_t]\}.
\end{aligned}$$

For example, consider the graph  $K_4 \cdot K_5 \cdot K_6$ . Then  $r_1 = 4$ ,  $r_2 = 5$ ,  $r_3 = 6$  and  $n_1 = n_2 = n_3 = 1$ . We have

$$\text{Inv}(K_4 \cdot K_5 \cdot K_6) = \{1 [1], (1-q) [11], (1-q)(1+3q)(1+4q)(1+5q) [1]\}.$$

Consider the graph  $K_5 \cdot K_5 \cdot K_6$ . Then  $r_1 = 5$ ,  $r_2 = 6$ ,  $n_1 = 2$  and  $n_2 = 1$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Inv}(K_5 \cdot K_5 \cdot K_6) = \{ & 1 [1], (1-q) [11], (1-q)(1+4q) [1], \\
& (1-q)(1+4q)(1+5q) [1]\}.
\end{aligned}$$

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