

The Normalized Revised Szeged Index

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Abstract

In chemical graph theory, many graph parameters, or topological indices, were proposed as estimators of molecular structural properties. Often several variants of an index are considered. The aim is to extend the original concept to larger families of graphs than initially considered, or to make it more precise and discriminant, or yet to make its range of values similar to that of another index, thus facilitating their comparison. In this paper, we introduce a new variant of the Szeged index. It is named normalized revised Szeged index, and is obtained by taking the square root of the revised Szeged index divided by the number of edges in the considered graph. The spread of its values is the same as for the Randić index. We also study the correlations between the Szeged indices, as well as the Randić index, and the boiling point of chemical graphs with up to eight vertices.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mathematical descriptors of molecular structure and properties, such as various topological indices [17], have been widely used in chemical studies. Many topological indices related to the graph representation of molecular structures were proposed. Among the earliest and most important descriptors, one can find the *Wiener index* [22] introduced in 1947, the *Hosoya topological index* [10] introduced in 1971, the *Randić index* [19] introduced in 1975 and the *Szeged index* [9] introduced in 1994 and modified to the *revised Wiener index* (also called the *revised Szeged index*) by Randić [16] in 2002. For the use of the Szeged and the revised Szeged indices see, for example, [14, 15] and the references

therein. For other topological indices proposed in the literature see e.g. [5], [18] and [21]. In this paper, we introduce a modification on the revised Szeged index to get a new topological index called the *normalized revised Szeged index*. The new index, computed from the revised Szeged index, takes into account the number of edges (bonds) of a given graph. It also fits in the same value range as the Randić index. As will be shown in this paper, the normalized revised Szeged index correlates with the boiling point of both cyclic and acyclic molecular graphs, better than both Szeged and revised Szeged indices. First, let us recall some needed definitions.

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected graph with vertex set V and edge set E . For $u, v \in V$, $d(u, v)$ denotes the distance between u and v in G . Let $e = uv \in E$ and define the partition $\{N_u(e), N_v(e), N_0(e)\}$ of the vertices of G with respect to e as follows

$$N_u(e) = \{w \in V : d(u, w) < d(v, w)\},$$

$$N_v(e) = \{w \in V : d(v, w) < d(u, w)\},$$

$$N_0(e) = \{w \in V : d(u, w) = d(v, w)\}.$$

Let $n_u(e)$, $n_v(e)$ and $n_0(e)$ denote the number of vertices in $N_u(e)$, $N_v(e)$ and $N_0(e)$ respectively. In 1994, Gutman [9] introduced the *Szeged index* of a graph G as a molecular descriptor. It is defined by

$$Sz = Sz(G) = \sum_{e=uv \in E} n_u(e) \cdot n_v(e).$$

It is well known that the Szeged index generalizes the Wiener index to cyclic graphs. In 2002, Randić [16] “*critically examined the Szeged index and found it deficient as a molecular descriptor . . . despite its elegant and attractive mathematical definition*”. Indeed, as pointed out by Randić [16], the Szeged index does not take into account the contributions of the vertices at equal distance from the endpoints of an edge. The problem occurs when the graph contains odd cycles. Thus, Randić [16] proposed the *revised Szeged index* that he called the *revised Wiener index* and defined it by

$$Sz^* = Sz^*(G) = \sum_{e=uv \in E} \left(n_u(e) + \frac{n_0(e)}{2} \right) \cdot \left(n_v(e) + \frac{n_0(e)}{2} \right).$$

In the same paper, Randić showed that the revised Szeged (Wiener) index has a better correlation, that the Szeged index, with the boiling point of 45 cycloalkanes.

The best known parameter to be well correlated with the boiling point of chemical compounds is the *Randić index*. It is called so after Milam Randić who introduced it under

the name *connectivity index* [19] in 1975. It is defined by

$$Ra(G) = \sum_{uv \in E} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d(u)d(v)}}$$

where $d(u)$ denotes the degree (number of neighbors) of u in G .

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we introduce a new graph parameter called the *normalized revised Szeged index* and computed from the revised Szeged index. We propose it as an estimator of the boiling point of chemical compounds. In Section 3, we prove lower and upper bounds on the normalized revised Szeged index of several classes of graphs: trees with a given number of vertices n , connected unicyclic graphs with a given number of vertices n , connected graphs with a given number of vertices n and a given number of edges m , and connected triangle-free graphs with a given number of vertices. Section 4 is a study of different correlations between the boiling point, of all alkanes and cycloalkanes on up to 8 vertices, on the one hand, and the simple, revised and normalized revised Szeged indices as well as the Randić index on the other hand.

2. Introducing Szs^*

Both Randić and revised Szeged indices are well correlated with the boiling point of chemical compounds. However, the Randić index Ra has a better correlation than the revised Szeged index Sz^* . So, it is natural to look for similarities between Ra and Sz^* in order to improve the correlation between a possible new version of the Szeged index and the boiling point or any other chemical property.

If we consider Ra and Sz^* on the class of all connected graphs on a given number n of vertices, the star S_n is the only graph that minimizes both parameters. Also, the complete graph K_n , among others, maximizes both Ra and Sz^* . Considering the two parameters on the class of all connected graphs with given numbers n of vertices and m of edges, it is proved in [2] that

$$(n-1) \cdot m \leq Sz^*(G) \leq \frac{n^2 \cdot m}{4}.$$

Equality for the lower bound holds if and only if G is the star S_n . The upper bound is reached if and only if G is a *transmission regular graph*, i.e., a graph in which the sum of the distances from each vertex to all others, also called transmission, is a constant.

The above double-inequality can be written as follows

$$n - 1 \leq \frac{Sz^*}{m} \leq \frac{n^2}{4},$$

or equivalently

$$\sqrt{n - 1} \leq \sqrt{\frac{Sz^*}{m}} \leq \frac{n}{2}.$$

Let us define the *normalized revised Szeged index* by dividing Sz^* by m and then taking the square root, *i.e.*,

$$Szs^* = \sqrt{\frac{Sz^*}{m}}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\sqrt{n - 1} \leq Szs^*(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}.$$

These bounds are exactly the well known bounds on the Randić index, but the extremal graphs for the upper bound are not exactly the same. However, there are many common extremal graphs. Recall that the bounds on Ra are

$$\sqrt{n - 1} \leq Ra(G) \leq \frac{n}{2}$$

with equality for the lower bound if and only if G is the star S_n , and for the upper bound if and only if G is a (degree) regular graph.

In addition to the similarity in the bounds, Ra and Szs^* have the same value for several families of graphs.

- As already mentioned, $Ra(S_n) = Szs^*(S_n) = \sqrt{n - 1}$. The star is also the complete bipartite graph $K_{n-1,1}$, and this equality can be extended to all complete bipartite graphs.

Indeed, consider the complete bipartite graph $K_{p,q}$. We have

$$Ra(K_{p,q}) = Szs^*(K_{p,q}) = \sqrt{p \cdot q}.$$

- We have also noted that Ra is maximum for regular graphs and Szs^* is maximum for transmission regular graphs. So, for any regular and transmission regular graph G

$$Ra(G) = Szs^*(G) = \frac{n}{2}.$$

Examples of regular and transmission regular graphs are the complete graph K_n , the cycle C_n the hypercube Q_k on $n = 2^k$ vertices, $K_{2k} \setminus M$, where M is a perfect matching on $n = 2k$ vertices, $K_n \setminus C_n$ for $n \geq 5$, and any regular graph of diameter $D = 2$.

Note that there exist graphs which are transmission regular but not (degree) regular [3], for instance the graph of Figure 1.

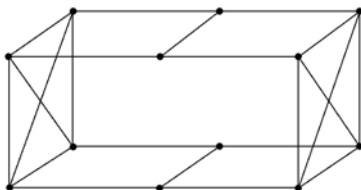


Figure 1: A transmission regular but not regular graph on 12 vertices

3. Bounds on Szs^*

In this section, we prove lower and upper bounds on the normalized revised Szeged index Szs^* of some classes of graphs, and characterize the relevant extremal graphs. Note that the results proved here were first obtained as conjectures using the AutoGraphiX system [1,7]. We first prove upper and lower bounds on Szs^* considered on the set of trees with a given number of vertices n . We also characterize the extremal trees which turn out to be the same as for the Randić index.

Proposition 1. *Let T be a tree on n vertices then*

$$Szs^*(S_n) = \sqrt{n-1} \leq Szs^*(T) \leq Szs^*(P_n) = \sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)}{6}}$$

with equality if and only if G is the star S_n for the lower bound and the path P_n for the upper bound.

Proof : The result follows from the facts that $Sz(T) = Sz^*(T) = W(T)$ and $W(S_n) \leq W(T) \leq W(P_n)$ for any tree T , where $W(T)$ denotes the Wiener index (sum of all distances) of the tree T . ■

The results about the Randić index that are similar to the above proposition are due to Bollobas and Erdős [6] for the lower bound and to Yu [23] for the upper bound. These two bounds are gathered in the following theorem.

Theorem 2. *Let T be a tree on n vertices then*

$$Ra(S_n) = \sqrt{n-1} \leq Ra(T) \leq Ra(P_n) = \frac{n-3+2\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

with equality if and only if G is S_n for the lower bound and P_n for the upper bound.

The upper bound on Szs^* on the set of trees is reached only for the path P_n as proved above. If we except P_n , what is the tree that would maximize Szs^* ? The next proposition

answers this question. Recall that a *comet* $Co_{n,\Delta}$ the tree obtained from a star S_Δ and a path $P_{n-\Delta}$ by joining an endpoint of the path to the central vertex of the star.

Proposition 3. *Let T be a tree with maximum degree $\Delta \geq 3$. Then*

$$Szs^*(T) \leq \sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)}{6} + \frac{2}{n-1}} - 1$$

with equality if and only if T is the comet $Co_{n,3}$. Moreover the second largest value of Szs^* on the set of trees on n vertices is $Szs^*(Co_{n,3})$.

Proof : It is known that on the set of all trees on n vertices with maximum degree $\Delta \geq 3$, the Wiener index is maximum for and only for the comet $Co_{n,3}$ [4]. As the Szeged index and the Wiener index are equal for a tree, the bound follows as well as the characterization of the corresponding extremal graphs. As proved above, the largest value of Szs^* on the set of all trees on n vertices is attained for and only for the path P_n . So if T is not the path then the maximum degree $\Delta \geq 3$. Thus the second largest value of Szs^* is attained for and only for the comet $Co_{n,3}$. ■

Note that the second largest value of the Randić index over all trees on $n \geq 7$ vertices is not attained for the comet $Co_{n,3}$ but for a tree containing exactly one vertex of degree 3 adjacent to 3 vertices of degree 2 [11].

We now turn to bounding the normalized revised Szeged index Szs^* on the set of unicyclic graphs. In order to characterize the extremal unicyclic graphs related to the lower bound on Szs^* , we need the following definition.

A graph G on $n \geq 4$ vertices is a *turnip* $Tr_{n,g}$ if it is composed of a cycle C_g with $n - g$ pending edges all incident to the same vertex from the cycle.

Proposition 4. *Let G be a unicyclic graph on n vertices then*

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll} \sqrt{(5n^2 - 4n - 6)/(4n)} & \text{if } n \leq 12, \\ \sqrt{n + 3 - 12/n} & \text{if } n \geq 13 \end{array} \right\} \leq Szs^*(G) \leq Szs^*(C_n) = \frac{n}{2}$$

with equality if and only if G is $Tr_{n,3}$ if $n \leq 12$ and $Tr_{n,4}$ if $n \geq 13$ for the lower bound and C_n for the upper bound.

Proof : The lower bound follows from the similar bound on Sz^* proved in [2], namely

$$Sz^*(G) \geq \begin{cases} 5n^2/4 - n - 3/2 & \text{if } n \leq 12, \\ n^2 + 3n - 12 & \text{if } n \geq 13 \end{cases}$$

with equality if and only if G is the turnip $Tr_{n,3}$ if $n \leq 12$ and G is the turnip $Tr_{n,4}$ if $n \geq 13$.

The upper bound follows from the upper bound on Szs^* on general connected graphs and the fact that the cycle C_n is the only unicyclic graph that is transmission regular. ■

Up to now, we proved bounds as functions of the number of vertices n only. We next prove bounds which are functions of both the numbers of vertices n and of edges m of connected graphs.

Proposition 5. *Let G be a connected graph on $n \geq 5$ vertices and m edges, then*

$$Szs^*(G) \leq \sqrt{m} + \frac{n}{2} - \sqrt{n}$$

with equality if and only if G is the cycle C_n .

Proof :

If G is a tree, using Proposition 1, we have

$$Szs^*(G) - \sqrt{m} \leq \sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)}{6}} - \sqrt{n-1} < \frac{n}{2} - \sqrt{n}$$

for all $n \geq 5$. Thus the bound is true and strict.

If G is not a tree, *i.e.*, $m \geq n$, we have

$$Szs^*(G) \leq \sqrt{m} + \frac{n}{2} - \sqrt{n}$$

with equality if and only if $Szs^*(G) = n/2$ and $m = n$, *i.e.*, if and only if G a transmission regular and unicyclic graph. The cycle C_n is the only unicyclic graph to be transmission regular. ■

Theorem 6. *Let G be a connected triangle-free graph on $n \geq 5$ vertices and m edges, then*

$$Szs^*(G) \geq \sqrt{m}$$

with equality if and only if G is a complete bipartite graph $K_{p,q}$.

Proof : Since G is a triangle-free graph, for any edge $e = uv \in E$

$$(n_u(e) + n_0(e)) \cdot (n_v(e) + n_0(e)) \geq d(u) \cdot d(v)$$

with equality if and only if $d(u) + d(v) = n$. Thus

$$Szs^*(G) \geq \sum_{uv \in E} d(u) \cdot d(v)$$

with equality if and only if $d(u) + d(v) = n$ for every edge uv in G . Assume that G minimizes Szs^* and let v_1v_2 be an edge in G . Then denote by V_1 (resp. V_2) the set of neighbors of v_1 (resp. v_2). Since G is triangle-free, there is no edge between any pair of vertices in V_i , for $i = 1, 2$. Also, $d(u) + d(v) = n$ for any edge in G , thus G is a complete bipartite graph.

Conversely, as seen above, for any complete bipartite graph $Szs^* = \sqrt{m}$. ■

From this theorem and the fact that a complete bipartite graph $K_{p,q}$ contains $m = pq$ edges, it is easy to derive the following corollary.

Corollary 7. *Let G be a connected triangle-free graph on $n \geq 3$ vertices with minimum degree δ , then*

$$Szs^*(G) \geq \sqrt{\delta(n - \delta)}$$

with equality if and only if G is the complete bipartite graph $K_{n-\delta,\delta}$.

Note the similarity between the above corollary and the corresponding result about the Randić index proved in [8] and stated as follows.

Theorem 8 ([8,12]). *Let $G = (V, E)$ be a triangle-free graph of order n with minimum degree $\delta \geq 1$, then*

$$Ra(G) \geq \sqrt{\delta(n - \delta)}$$

with equality if and only if G is the complete bipartite graph $K_{n-\delta,\delta}$.

Liu, Lu and Tian [13] showed that there was a mistake in the proof of the above theorem given by Delorme, Favaron and Rautenbach [8]. A correct proof was recently given by Li and Liu [12].

4. Linear regression

In this section, we report on the correlations between Szs^* and some selected graph invariants. Two types of regression are studied: linear and logarithmic. Each type was studied for different sets of alkanes. First, the two regressions were tested for all alkanes on up to 8 vertices. Among these, the acyclic alkanes were tested alone, and then all cycloalkanes were considered. Finally, the correlations were tested for each of the sets of unicyclic and bicyclic alkanes. The data is given in Table 1 and Table 2, and the graphs corresponding to the chemical compounds considered are given in Figure 2 and



Figure 2: All alkanes on up to 7 vertices

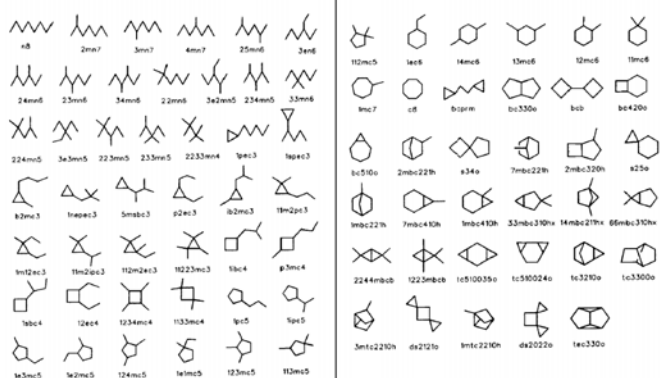


Figure 3: All alkanes on 8 vertices

Figure 3. Note that the graphs with the corresponding name (in chemistry) and boiling points are taken from [20]. The values of Ra , Sz , Sz^* and Szs^* are computed using the AutoGraphiX system [1, 7]. The results are summarized in Table 3.

The first observation is that the Randić index is the descriptor having the best correlation, in both linear and logarithmic models, with the boiling point. For the linear model, the $BP-Ra$ correlation ranges between $R^2 = 0.9601$ for the cycloalkanes and $R^2 = 0.9768$ for trees. For the logarithmic model, the $BP-Ra$ correlation ranges between $R^2 = 0.9520$ for all the cycloalkanes, and also for the *bicycloalkanes*, and $R^2 = 0.9895$ for the trees. Thus, when going from the linear to logarithmic model, the correlation increases slightly within

the class of trees, while it slightly decreases within the set of cyclic graphs. However, the difference does not appear to be significant.

The study confirms that the modified Szeged Szs index correlates better than the Szeged index Sz in the case of a linear model for all the graph classes considered, except of course for the class of trees for which $Szs = Sz$. In the case of the logarithmic model, when we considered all the graphs together, the correlation was slightly better for Sz than for Szs , $R^2 = 0.8967$ against $R^2 = 0.8804$. But, when we considered the class of unicyclic graphs and that of bicyclic graphs, each alone, the correlation was better for Szs . It was $R^2 = 0.8880$ and $R^2 = 0.7912$ for Sz against $R^2 = 0.9469$ and $R^2 = 0.9044$ for Szs in the case of unicyclic and bicyclic graphs respectively. In the case of the class of all cyclic graphs the correlation was $R^2 = 0.8462$ for Sz and $R^2 = 0.8986$ for Szs .

In almost all cases, the boiling point correlates with Szs^* better than with Sz or Szs . In fact the only case where Sz and Szs correlate with BP better than Szs^* is when the class of graphs contains only trees and the model is logarithmic. In that case, the correlation is $R^2 = 0.9686$ for Sz and Szs and $R^2 = 0.9634$ for Szs^* . Globally, the correlation between BP and Szs^* ranges from $R^2 = 0.9058$, for the class of all graphs and the linear model, to $R^2 = 0.9634$, for the class of trees and the logarithmic model.

Comparing the spread of the correlation coefficients for different parameters among the two models gathered, we find that the Randić index has the smallest spread with 0.0375. The second smallest spread corresponds to the normalized revised Szeged index with 0.0576, while the spreads corresponding to Sz and Szs , 0.2794 and 0.3075 respectively, are very large compared to those of Ra and Szs^* .

The spreads of the parameters are the same if we consider only the linear model while their values decrease. Actually the values are 0.0167, 0.0517, 0.179 and 0.2475 for Ra , Szs^* , Sz and Szs respectively. The order changes in the case of a logarithmic model, where the values are 0.0375, 0.055, 0.0882 and 0.1774 for Ra , Szs^* , Szs and Sz .

If we compare the linear and logarithmic models, the logarithmic formula seems to fit better than the linear one for both Szeged and modified Szeged indices. Indeed, for all graph classes considered in the present study, the correlation between BP and Sz , and between BP and Szs is better in the logarithmic model than in the linear model. Also, in the case of trees, the logarithmic model appears to be better than the linear model.

	$Bp = a \cdot X + b$				$Bp = a \cdot \ln(X) + b$			
X	Ra	Sz	Szs	Szs^*	Ra	Sz	Szs	Szs^*
Linear and logarithmic regressions for all listed graphs								
a	65.7605	1.2979	0.9560	68.2475	173.5428	52.1224	51.2689	176.4932
b	-125.7588	14.1150	17.2091	-120.9368	-112.3499	-112.7021	-122.7882	-105.5079
R^2	0.9681	0.6892	0.6610	0.9058	0.9649	0.8967	0.8804	0.9124
Linear and logarithmic regressions for all listed trees								
a	67.4928	1.9754	1.9754	85.6040	163.9879	53.3731	53.3731	188.8712
b	-130.4607	-18.4448	-18.4448	-154.7737	-100.8456	-116.7670	-116.7670	-105.6717
R^2	0.9768	0.8682	0.8682	0.9513	0.9895	0.9686	0.8986	0.9634
Linear and logarithmic regressions for all listed cyclic graphs								
a	61.7626	1.0503	0.8561	65.7610	182.2491	51.4306	58.9833	190.7204
b	-112.2505	30.4603	22.8883	-116.4228	-123.0777	-110.0835	-160.0415	-125.3119
R^2	0.9601	0.7404	0.8006	0.9280	0.9520	0.8462	0.8986	0.9315
Linear and logarithmic regressions for all listed unicyclic graphs								
a	61.8049	1.1007	1.1673	70.2910	177.0823	51.0513	61.9144	194.5201
b	-113.4510	26.3344	6.1250	-128.1330	-118.1771	-109.7664	-168.0507	-127.7233
R^2	0.9728	0.7615	0.9085	0.9575	0.9648	0.8880	0.9469	0.9561
Linear and logarithmic regressions for all listed bicyclic graphs								
a	62.1103	0.9832	0.9220	65.6919	190.3087	50.5152	67.4292	196.8301
b	-111.7343	33.4759	12.9827	-118.1816	-131.2320	-106.9898	-201.3849	-134.2765
R^2	0.9618	0.7341	0.8889	0.9151	0.9520	0.7912	0.9044	0.9084

Table 3: Linear and logarithmic regressions

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