

More Trees with Large Energy

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Abstract

Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ be the eigenvalues of an n -vertex graph G . The energy of G is defined as $\text{En}(G) = |\lambda_1| + |\lambda_2| + \dots + |\lambda_n|$. The trees with largest, second, third and fourth-largest energy are known for any given number of vertices. For sufficiently large n , we extend this list until the first appearance of a tree with four leaves, which is the tree with $(3n - 84)^{\text{th}}$ (resp. $(3n - 87)^{\text{th}}$) largest energy for odd n (resp. for even n).

1 Introduction

Let G be a simple and undirected n -vertex graph with adjacency matrix $A(G)$. Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ be the n roots of the polynomial $P(\lambda) = \det(\lambda I - A(G))$. The energy of G is defined as

$$\text{En}(G) = \sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda_i|.$$

Apart from purely graph theoretical interest, the study of En is considerably motivated by applications in organic chemistry: for example, within the framework of Hückel molecular orbital approximation, the calculation of the theoretically computed total π -electron energy of a hydrocarbon molecule can be reduced to that of the energy of the corresponding molecular graph [6]. Moreover, the energy of graphs has certain relations to some well known topological indices such as the Merrifield-Simmons index, defined as the number of independent vertex subsets, and the Hosoya index which is the number of independent

edge subsets: it often happens that in a given class of graphs there is an element which has the maximum energy, the maximum Hosoya index and the minimum Merrifield-Simmons index and/or an element with the minimum energy, the minimum Hosoya index and the maximum Merrifield-Simmons index; for instance, this is the case for the class of trees and some smaller classes as in [1, 8].

The characterisation of extremal graphs with respect to the energy for different types of graphs such as trees [3, 11, 13, 17], unicyclic [2, 10, 12], bicyclic [9, 16], tricyclic [15], tetracyclic graphs [14] and many others has been of interest to both graph theorists and chemists. A wider range of results can be found in the survey [5]. Let us denote by P_n the n -vertex path and by $T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)$ the n -vertex tripod which has two branches of length i and j (see Figure 1), respectively. We can rearrange i , j and $n - i - j - 1$ if needed and still have the same tripod. The four n -vertex trees with maximum energy, for

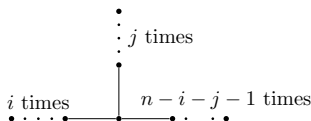


Figure 1: Tripod $T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)$

$n \geq 15$, are P_n , $T(2, 2, n - 5)$, $T(2, 4, n - 7)$ and $T(2, 6, n - 9)$ ordered by decreasing energy [3, 11, 13]. In this paper our main result is an extension of this list, for large enough n , until the first appearance of a tree with four leaves, which is the tree with $(3n - 84)^{\text{th}}$ (resp. $(3n - 87)^{\text{th}}$) largest energy for odd n (resp. even n). To achieve this we extend an approach used in [7, 18, 20]: the technique consists of considering a graph obtained by attaching a subgraph G to the i^{th} vertex in a path, and then observing how the energy depends on the choice of the position i . Details for this are provided in Section 2, they are based on the formula [6]

$$\text{En}(T) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2} \log \mu(T, x) \quad (1)$$

for any tree T , where

$$\mu(T, x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} m(G, k) x^{2k}, \quad (2)$$

and $m(G, k)$ denotes the number of matchings of order k in G . Equation (1) is a particular case of the so-called Coulson integral formula for the energy of a graph, which has been used in most results on the energy of graphs. It follows from (1) that whenever we have

two trees T_1 and T_2 which satisfy the inequality

$$\mu(T_1, x) > \mu(T_2, x)$$

for all real numbers $x > 0$, we can deduce that $\text{En}(T_1) > \text{En}(T_2)$. Therefore the study of En can be reduced to that of $\mu(., x)$ in appropriate situations. In Section 3 we show for all $n \geq 10$ that $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$, obtained by merging each end of P_{n-8} to the third vertex in a 5-vertex path, is the tree with maximum energy among all trees of order n and at least four leaves. Finally, Section 4 is devoted to ordering of all trees with energy greater than that of $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$.

2 “Sliding along a path” with respect to $\mu(., x)$

Let G be a connected graph with at least two vertices, and let v be a vertex of G . Let n and k be integers such that $n - 1 \geq k \geq 0$. We denote by $P(n, k, G, v)$ the graph which results from identifying v with the vertex v_{k+1} of a path $v_1, \dots, v_n$ as in Figure 2. For a vertex v in a graph G we denote by $N_G(v)$ the set of vertices of G adjacent to v .

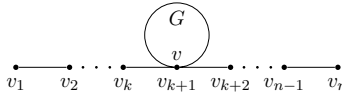


Figure 2: $P(n, k, G, v)$

In this section we aim to understand how $\mu(P(n, k, G, v), x)$ behaves as a function of k . The following lemma is an immediate consequence of the definition of $\mu(., x)$:

Lemma 1 ([6]). *Let G and G' be two disjoint graphs and let $x > 0$ be a real number. Then we have*

$$\mu(G \cup G', x) = \mu(G, x)\mu(G', x); \quad (3)$$

if $v \in V(G)$, then we have

$$\mu(G, x) = \mu(G - v, x) + x^2 \sum_{w \in N_G(v)} \mu(G - \{v, w\}, x). \quad (4)$$

The following ordering of the $P(n, k, G, v)$'s is well-known, see [7] and [18].

Lemma 2. *Let x be a positive real number and $n \geq 7$ an integer, then the following inequalities hold:*

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(P(n, 0, G, v), x) &> \mu(P(n, 2, G, v), x) > \cdots > \mu(P(n, 2\lfloor (n-1)/4 \rfloor, G, v), x) \\ &> \mu(P(n, 2\lfloor (n+1)/4 \rfloor - 1, G, v), x) > \cdots > \mu(P(n, 3, G, v), x) > \mu(P(n, 1, G, v), x). \end{aligned}$$

Note that $2\lfloor m/4 \rfloor$ and $2\lfloor (m+2)/4 \rfloor - 1$ are the two largest integers less or equal to $m/2$ for all positive integers m .

As k varies, G appears to be “sliding” along the path to which it is attached. This is the reason why lemmas of such a type are also called “Sliding along a path” [19].

The following remark is an immediate consequence of Lemma 2, it is particularly useful in practice to construct trees with larger energy than a given one (see [4] for instance).

Remark 1. *The graph transformation in Figure 3 reduces the number of leaves and increases the energy, for all integers $n > k > 1$. In general, the energy of a tree increases*

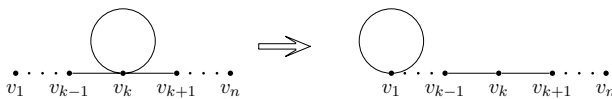


Figure 3:

if we replace a branch which is not a path by a path of the same order.

By considering one of the branches of a tripod as a sliding subgraph, the following theorem follows:

Theorem 1 ([3]). *For all positive integers i and n such that $n \geq 3i + 7$ we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor, n - i - 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor - 1)) &> \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor + 2, n - i - 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor - 3)) > \cdots \\ &> \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor (n-i-1)/4 \rfloor, n - i - 2\lfloor (n-i-1)/4 \rfloor - 1)) \\ &> \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor (n-i+1)/4 \rfloor - 1, n - i - 2\lfloor (n-i+1)/4 \rfloor)) > \\ \cdots &> \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor + 3, n - i - 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor - 4)) > \text{En}(T(i, 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor + 1, n - i - 2\lfloor i/2 \rfloor - 2)). \end{aligned}$$

3 Trees with at least four leaves and maximum energy

Throughout this section $d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}$ are always positive integers. For all integers n such that $d_{11} + d_{12} + d_{21} + d_{22} \leq n - 1$, we denote by $H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n)$ the n -vertex

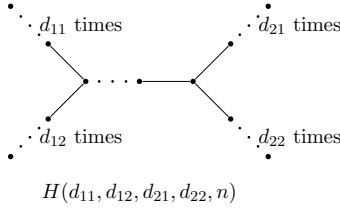


Figure 4:

quadripod as described in Figure 4. It is convenient to set

$$\begin{aligned} T(0, j, k) &= P_{j+k+1}, \\ T(-1, j, k) &= P_j \cup P_k \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mu(T(-2, j, k), x) = \mu(P_j, x)\mu(P_{k-1}, x) + \mu(P_{j-1}, x)\mu(P_k, x)$$

for all positive integers j and k to have the well known relation

$$\mu(T(i, j, k+2), x) = \mu(T(i, j, k+1), x) + x^2\mu(T(i, j, k), x) \quad (5)$$

valid for $i \geq -2$ and $j, k \geq 1$. Note that for $n \geq d_{11} + d_{12} + d_{21} + d_{22} + 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n), x) \\ &= \mu(P_{d_{11}}, x)\mu(P_{d_{12}}, x)\mu(T(d_{21}, d_{22}, n - d_{11} - d_{12} - d_{21} - d_{22} - 2), x) \\ &+ x^2\mu(P_{d_{11}-1}, x)\mu(P_{d_{12}}, x)\mu(T(d_{21}, d_{22}, n - d_{11} - d_{12} - d_{21} - d_{22} - 2), x) \\ &+ x^2\mu(P_{d_{11}}, x)\mu(P_{d_{12}-1}, x)\mu(T(d_{21}, d_{22}, n - d_{11} - d_{12} - d_{21} - d_{22} - 2), x) \\ &+ x^2\mu(P_{d_{11}}, x)\mu(P_{d_{12}}, x)\mu(T(d_{21}, d_{22}, n - d_{11} - d_{12} - d_{21} - d_{22} - 3), x) \end{aligned}$$

which shows that (using (5))

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n+2), x) \\ &= \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n+1), x) + x^2\mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n), x) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}+2, n+2), x) \\ &= \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}+1, n+1), x) + x^2\mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n), x). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Lemma 3. *The n -vertex tree with at least four leaves and maximum energy must be an element of*

$$\{H(1, 1, 1, 1, n), H(1, 1, 2, d_{22}, n), H(2, d_{12}, 2, d_{22}, n) | d_{22} \geq d_{12} \geq 1\}.$$

Proof. Remark 1 reduces the set of candidates to be the set of quadripods. Using the Lemma of “Sliding along a path” we know that if $\max\{d_{11}, d_{12}\} \geq 3$ and $\min\{d_{11}, d_{12}\} \neq 2$, then for all positive x we have

$$\mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}), x) < \mu(H(2, d_{12} + d_{11} - 2, d_{21}, d_{22}), x).$$

Similarly, if $\max\{d_{21}, d_{22}\} \geq 3$ and $\min\{d_{21}, d_{22}\} \neq 2$, then we have

$$\mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}), x) < \mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, 2, d_{22} - d_{21} - 2), x).$$

□

Now we also have to use (4) in order to get the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 1, n), x) &= \mu(T(1, 1, n - 4), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 1, n - 6), x) \\ &< \mu(T(1, 2, n - 5), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 7), x) \text{ for all } n \geq 7 \\ &= \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 1, n), x), \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 1, n), x) &= \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 1, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 1, n - 5), x) \\ &< \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 6), x) \text{ for all } n \geq 8 \\ &= \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 2, n), x), \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(1, 1, 2, 2, n), x) &= \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 1, n - 5), x) \\ &< \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 6), x) \text{ for all } n \geq 6 \\ &= \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 2, n), x), \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 2, n), x) &= \mu(H(1, 1, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 6), x) \\ &< \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 6), x) \text{ for all } n \geq 9 \\ &= \mu(H(1, 2, 2, 2, n), x), \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

$$\mu(H(1, 2, 2, 2, n), x) = \mu(H(1, 2, 1, 2, n - 1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(1, 2, n - 6), x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &< \mu(H(1, 2, 2, 2, n-1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(2, 2, n-7), x) \text{ for all } n \geq 10 \\ &= \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-7, n), x) \\ &= \mu(H(1, 2, 2, n-7, n-1), x) + x^2 \mu(T(2, 2, n-7), x) \\ &= x^2 \mu(P_2, x) \mu(P_{n-7}, x) + (1+x^2) \mu(T(2, 2, n-7), x) \\ &< x^2 \mu(P_2, x) \mu(T(2, 2, n-10), x) + (1+x^2) \mu(T(2, 2, n-7), x) \text{ for } n \geq 10 \\ &= \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

and for $3 \leq d_{22} \leq n-9$ (and hence $n \geq 12$)

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu(H(2, 2, 2, d_{22}, n), x) \\ &= (\mu(P_1, x) + x^2) \mu(T(2, d_{22}, n-5-d_{22}), x) \\ &+ x^2 \mu(P_1, x) \mu(P_2, x) \mu(T(2, d_{22}, n-8-d_{22}), x) \\ &< (\mu(P_1, x) + x^2) \mu(T(2, 2, n-7), x) + x^2 \mu(P_1, x) \mu(P_2, x) \mu(T(2, 2, n-10), x) \\ &= \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

More inequalities are obtained by induction in the next two lemmas.

Lemma 4. *For all integers $n \geq 10$, $n-5 \geq d_{22} \geq 1$ and for all real numbers $x > 0$ we have*

$$\mu(H(1, 1, 2, d_{22}, n), x) < \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)$$

and

$$\mu(H(1, 2, 2, d_{22}, n), x) < \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x). \quad (15)$$

Proof. Induction with respect to d_{22} : The initial cases corresponding to $d_{22} \in \{1, 2\}$ were already obtained in (9), (10), (11) and (12), and the induction step follows from the relations in (6) and (7). $\square$

Lemma 5. *Let $n \geq 10$, $d_{22} \geq d_{12}$ and $n-5 \geq d_{12}+d_{22}$. We have $\mu(H(2, d_{12}, 2, d_{22}, n), x) < \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)$ except if (d_{12}, d_{22}) is in $\{(2, 2), (2, n-8)\}$.*

Proof. For any given value of d_{22} we reason by induction with respect to d_{12} . The initial cases corresponding to $d_{12} \in \{1, 2\}$ can be deduced from (13), (14), (15) using the relation $\mu(H(2, 1, 2, 2, n), x) = \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 1, n), x)$. Note that using Lemma 2 and (13) we have

$$\mu(H(2, 3, 2, n-8, n), x) < \mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-7, n), x) < \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x),$$

and in $H(2, d_{12}, 2, d_{22}, n, x)$ if $d_{12} \geq 4$, then $d_{22} < n - 8$. The induction step follows from the recurrence relations for $\mu(H(d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{21}, d_{22}, n, x), x)$. $\square$

We are left to compare $\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$ and $\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, n - 8, n))$. As we will observe in the rest of this section the sign of $\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x) - \mu(H(2, 2, 2, n - 8, n), x)$ depends on x . Therefore, we have to estimate each of $\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$ and $\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, n - 8, n))$ in order to be able to compare them. For this we need explicit expressions for $\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)$ and $\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n - 8, n), x)$. The characteristic polynomial $P(t) = t^2 - t - x^2$ of the recurrence relation

$$\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n + 2), x) = \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n + 1), x) + x^2 \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)$$

has two roots

$$t_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4x^2}}{2} = \frac{-1}{z^2 - 1} \quad \text{and} \quad t_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 + 4x^2}}{2} = \frac{z^2}{z^2 - 1}$$

where $x = z/(1 - z^2)$; to have x ranging in $(0, +\infty)$ we take $0 < z < 1$. This implies that

$$\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, 9 + k), x) = A(z) \left(\frac{z^2}{z^2 - 1} \right)^k + B(z) \left(\frac{-1}{z^2 - 1} \right)^k \quad (16)$$

for some $A(z)$ and $B(z)$ which satisfy

$$\begin{cases} A(z) + B(z) = \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, 9), x) = \frac{(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^3(z^4 + 3z^2 + 1)}{(z^2 - 1)^8} \\ A(z) \frac{z^2}{z^2 - 1} + B(z) \frac{-1}{z^2 - 1} = \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, 10), x) \\ \hspace{15em} = \frac{(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^{12} + z^{10} - 2z^8 + z^6 - 2z^4 + z^2 + 1)}{(z^2 - 1)^{10}}. \end{cases}$$

Solving the system of equations we get

$$A(z) = \frac{z^4(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2}{(z^2 - 1)^9(z^2 + 1)} \quad \text{and} \quad B(z) = -\frac{(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2}{(z^2 - 1)^9(z^2 + 1)}.$$

Hence, (16) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x) \\ &= \frac{(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2}{z^2 + 1} \left(z^{-14}(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2 \left(\frac{z^2}{z^2 - 1} \right)^n + (z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2 \left(\frac{-1}{z^2 - 1} \right)^n \right) \quad (17) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2}{(z^2 + 1)(1 - z^2)^n} (z^{-14}(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2(-1)^n z^{2n} + (z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2). \quad (18)$$

In a similar way one can also obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x) &= \frac{z^4 - z^2 + 1}{(z^2 + 1)(1 - z^2)^n} \left[(-1)^n z^{2n-12} (z^{10} + z^8 - 2z^6 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2z^4 - 2z^2 + 1) + z^{10} - 2z^8 + 2z^6 - 2z^4 + z^2 + 1 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It is convenient to use the following abbreviations

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1(z) &= (z^4 - z^2 + 1)(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2 \\ Q_2(z) &= z^{12} + z^{10} - 2z^8 + 2z^6 - 2z^4 + z^2 \\ &= z^{12} + (z^5 - z^3)^2 + (z^3 - z)^2 \\ R_1(z) &= (z^4 - z^2 + 1)(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2 \\ R_2(z) &= z^{10} - 2z^8 + 2z^6 - 2z^4 + z^2 + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} R_1(z) - R_2(z) &= -z^6(Q_1(z) - Q_2(z)) \\ &= (z^2 - 1)z^6(z^2 - z - 1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Equation (1) can be rewritten in terms of z as

$$\text{En}(T) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log \mu(T, x).$$

For even n we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x)} &= \frac{z^{2n-14}Q_1(z) + R_1(z)}{z^{2n-14}Q_2(z) + R_2(z)} \\ &= 1 + \frac{z^{2n-14}(Q_1(z) - Q_2(z)) + R_1(z) - R_2(z)}{z^{2n-14}Q_2(z) + R_2(z)} \\ &= 1 + \frac{(R_1(z) - R_2(z))(1 - z^{2n-20})}{z^{2n-14}Q_2(z) + R_2(z)} \\ &= 1 + \frac{(z^2 - 1)(z^2 - z - 1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right) (1 - z^{2n-20})z^6}{z^{2n-14}Q_2(z) + R_2(z)}. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$I_-(n) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}} \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log \frac{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}} \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \log \left(1 + \frac{(z^2-1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right) (z^2-z-1) z^6}{R_2(z)} \right) \\ &> -0.003 \end{aligned}$$

and for $n \geq 12$ let

$$\begin{aligned} &I_+(n) \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \log \frac{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x)} \\ &\geq \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \log \left(1 + \frac{(z^2-1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right) (z^2-z-1) (1-z^{2 \cdot 12-20}) z^6}{z^{2 \cdot 12-14} Q_2(z) + R_2(z)} \right) \\ &> 0.009 \end{aligned}$$

to have

$$\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) - \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n)) = I_-(n) + I_+(n) > 0 \quad (20)$$

whenever n is even and at least 12.

For odd n we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x)} &= \frac{R_1(z) - z^{2n-14} Q_1(z)}{R_2(z) - z^{2n-14} Q_2(z)} \\ &= 1 + \frac{(z^2-1) z^6 (z^2-z-1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right) (1+z^{2n-20})}{R_2(z) - z^{2n-14} Q_2(z)}. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} &J_-(n) \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}} \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \frac{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n-8, n), x)} \\ &\geq \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}} \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \log \left(1 + \frac{(z^2-1) (z^2-z-1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \right) (1+z^{2 \cdot 11-20}) z^6}{R_2(z) - z^{2 \cdot 11-14} Q_2(z)} \right) \\ &> -0.004 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_+(n) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \frac{\mu(H(2,2,2,2,n),x)}{\mu(H(2,2,2,n-8,n),x)} \\
 &\geq \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1+z^2) \log \left(1 + \frac{(z^2-1)(z^2-z-1) \left(z - \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \right) z^6}{R_2(z)} \right) \\
 &> 0.021.
 \end{aligned}$$

Again this leads to

$$\text{En}(H(2,2,2,2,n)) - \text{En}(H(2,2,2,n-8,n)) = J_-(n) + J_+(n) > 0 \text{ for odd } n \geq 11.$$

The conclusion for this section is summarized in the following theorem (the case of $n = 9$ can be checked easily):

Theorem 2. *Among all trees with at least four leaves and order n at least 9, $H(2,2,2,2,n)$ is the unique tree with maximum energy.*

4 Comparison of $\text{En}(H(2,2,2,2,n))$ with the energy of tripods

It will be convenient to use the following abbreviation:

$$g_{a,n,r}(i) := a^i + (-1)^r a^{n-i}.$$

It is easy to see that for all non-negative integers n, r and $a \in (0, 1)$, the function $g_{a,n,r}$ is positive and decreasing for $i \in [0, n/2)$.

For the tripod $T(i, j, k)$ of order n , we can assume $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k = n - i - j - 1$ without loss of generality. We know that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu(T(i, j, k), x) &= \mu(P_{i+j+1}, x) \mu(P_{k-1}, x) + x^2 (\mu(P_{i+j+1}, x) \mu(P_{k-2}, x) \\
 &\quad + \mu(P_i, x) \mu(P_j, x) \mu(P_{k-1}, x)).
 \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way as to get (18) we also obtain

$$\mu(P_n, x) = \frac{z^2}{z^2+1} \left(\frac{z^2}{z^2-1} \right)^n + \frac{1}{z^2+1} \left(\frac{-1}{z^2-1} \right)^n \quad (21)$$

which leads to (remember that $i + j + k = n - 1$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mu(P_i, x)\mu(P_j, x)\mu(P_{k-1}, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(z^2 + 1)^3(1 - z^2)^{n-2}} \left((-1)^{n-2} z^{2(n+1)} + (-1)^{k-1} z^{2k} + (-1)^{j+k-1} z^{2(j+k+1)} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + (-1)^{i+k-1} z^{2(i+k+1)} + (-1)^{i+j} z^{2(i+j+2)} + 1 + (-1)^j z^{2(j+1)} + (-1)^i z^{2(i+1)} \right), \\
 & \mu(P_{i+j+1}, x)\mu(P_{k-1}, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(z^2 + 1)^2(1 - z^2)^{n-1}} \left((-1)^{n-1} z^{2(n+1)} + 1 - (-1)^{i+j} z^{2(n-k+1)} + (-1)^{k+1} z^{2k} \right), \\
 & \mu(P_{i+j+1}, x)\mu(P_{k-2}, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(z^2 + 1)^2(1 - z^2)^{n-2}} \left((-1)^n z^{2n} + 1 - (-1)^{i+j} z^{2(n-k+1)} + (-1)^k z^{2(k-1)} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mu(P_{i+j+1}, x)\mu(P_{k-1}, x) + x^2 \mu(P_{i+j+1}, x)\mu(P_{k-2}, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(z^2 + 1)^2(1 - z^2)^n} \left((-1)^n z^{2(n+2)} + 1 - (-1)^{i+j} z^{2(n-k+1)} + (-1)^k z^{2(k+1)} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1), x) &= \frac{1}{(z^2 + 1)^3(1 - z^2)^n} \left((-1)^n z^{2(n+2)}(2 + z^2) + 1 + 2z^2 \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + (-1)^i g_{z^2, n+3, n}(i + 2) + (-1)^j g_{z^2, n+3, n}(j + 2) - (-1)^{i+j} g_{z^2, n+3, n}(i + j + 2) \right). \quad (22)
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the expressions in (18) and (22) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(i, j, n, z) &:= \frac{\mu(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, n), x)} \\
 &= \frac{(-1)^n z^{2(n+2)}(2 + z^2) + 1 + 2z^2 + (-1)^i g_{z^2, n+3, n}(i + 2)}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^{-14}(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2(-1)^n z^{2n} + (z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2)} \\
 & \quad + \frac{(-1)^j g_{z^2, n+3, n}(j + 2) - (-1)^{i+j} g_{z^2, n+3, n}(i + j + 2)}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^{-14}(z^4 + z^2 - 1)^2(-1)^n z^{2n} + (z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2)}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(i, j, \infty, z) &:= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D(i, j, n, z) \\
 &= \frac{1 + 2z^2 + (-1)^i z^{2i+4} + (-1)^j z^{2j+4} - (-1)^{i+j} z^{2i+2j+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2}. \quad (23)
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that under the assumptions on i, j, k, n if i tends to infinity, then necessarily $i, j, k, n - i, n - j, n - k$ also tend to infinity, hence we have

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} D(i, j, n, z) = \frac{1 + 2z^2}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1 + 2z^2}{(1 + z^2)^2((z^4 - z^2)^2 - 1)^2}$$

which implies (remember the relation $x = z/(1 - z^2)$)

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \text{En}(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)) - \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2} \log \frac{\mu(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1), x)}{\mu(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n), x)} \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log \frac{1 + 2z^2}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &< -0.014. \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

(25)

This shows that there are only finitely many values of i for which the energy of $T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)$ is greater than that of $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$. Next we determine such values of i .

Lemma 6. *For n large enough, if $\text{En}(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$, then $i \in I = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18\}$.*

Proof. We use the notation in (23).

a) For even $i = 2k$ and even $j = 2(k + l)$ we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} D(i, j, \infty, z) &= ee(i, j, z) := \frac{1 + 2z^2 + z^{2i+4} + z^{2j+4} - z^{2i+2j+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq ee(i, i, z) = \frac{1 + 2z^2 + 2z^{2i+4} - z^{4i+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq ee(20, 20, z) \text{ for all } i \geq 20, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log ee(20, 20, z) < -0.001.$$

This shows that for n large enough, $k \geq 10$ and $l \geq 0$ we have $\text{En}(T(2k, 2(k + l), n - 4k - 2l - 1)) < \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$.

b) For even $i = 2k$ and odd $j = 2k + 1$ we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} D(i, j, \infty, z) &= eo(i, j, z) := \frac{1 + 2z^2 + z^{2i+4} - z^{2j+4} + z^{2i+2j+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq eo(i, \infty, z) = \frac{1 + 2z^2 + z^{2i+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq eo(14, \infty, z) \text{ for all } i \geq 14,$$

and

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log eo(14, \infty, z) < -0.001.$$

This means that (for n large enough) the energy of a tripod $T(2k, 2(k+l) + 1, n - 4k - 2l - 2)$ can only be greater than that of $H(2, 2, 2, n)$ if $k \leq 6$.

c) For odd $i = 2k + 1$ and even $j = 2(k + l + 1)$ we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} D(i, j, \infty, z) &= \frac{1 + 2z^2 - z^{2i+4} + z^{2j+4} + z^{2i+2j+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq \frac{1 + 2z^2 - z^{2i+4} + z^{2i+6} + z^{4i+6}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq oe(i, z) := \frac{1 + 2z^2 + z^{4i+6}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq oe(7, z) \text{ for all } i \geq 7 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log oe(7, z) < -0.002.$$

Hence (for n large enough) for all integers $l \geq 0$ a tripod $T(2k + 1, 2(k + l + 1), n - 4k - 2l - 2)$ that can possibly have greater energy than that of $H(2, 2, 2, n)$ must satisfy $k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$.

d) For odd i and odd j we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} D(i, j, \infty, z) = oo(i, j, z) &:= \frac{1 + 2z^2 - z^{2i+4} - z^{2j+4} - z^{2i+2j+4}}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq oo(\infty, \infty, z) = \frac{1 + 2z^2}{(1 + z^2)^2(z^4 - z^2 + 1)^2(z^4 - z^2 - 1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

where as we have seen in (25)

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log oo(\infty, \infty, z) < -0.014.$$

□

For any given value of i , Theorem 1 allows us to obtain the complete list of all tripods of order n and with shortest branch of length i , ordered by their energies. In the following

we determine the place of $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$ in each list corresponding to a value in I . For $i = 1$ we have

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log D(1, 2, \infty, z) > 0.004$$

and

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log D(1, 4, \infty, z) < -0.034,$$

thus $\text{En}(T(1, 2, n - 4)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(1, 4, n - 6)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(1, 1, n - 3))$, if n is large enough. Since

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} (1 + z^2) \log D(2, 3, \infty, z) > 0.030$$

we deduce that for $i = 2$ and n large enough we have

$$\text{En}(T(2, 2, n - 5)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(2, 3, n - 6)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)).$$

By similar arguments, for large enough n we also have:

$$\text{En}(T(3, 4, n - 8)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(3, 6, n - 10)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(3, 3, n - 7)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(4, 4, n - 9)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(4, 5, n - 10)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)),$$

$$\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(5, 6, n - 12)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(5, 5, n - 11)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(6, 6, n - 13)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(6, 7, n - 14)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(8, 8, n - 17)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(8, 11, n - 20)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(8, 9, n - 18)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(10, 10, n - 21)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(10, 21, n - 32)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(10, 19, n - 30)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(10, 11, n - 22)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(12, 12, n - 25)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(12, 85, n - 98)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(12, 83, n - 96)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(12, 13, n - 26)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(14, 14, n - 29)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(14, 30, n - 45)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(14, 32, n - 47)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(14, 15, n - 30)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(16, 16, n - 33)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(16, 22, n - 49)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(16, 24, n - 41)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(16, 17, n - 34)),$$

$$\text{En}(T(18, 18, n - 37)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)) > \text{En}(T(18, 20, n - 39)) > \cdots > \text{En}(T(18, 19, n - 38)).$$

We can count the tripods whose energy are greater than $\text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$ and obtain the following theorem:

Theorem 3. *For large enough n the quadripod $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$ is the $(3n - 84)^{th}$ (resp. $(3n - 87)^{th}$) tree with largest energy for odd n (resp. for even n).*

Proof. Use the fact that there are $\lfloor (n - i - 1)/2 \rfloor - i + 1$ tripods of order n for which the length of the shortest branch is i . Including the path we have

$$-61 + \sum_{i=1}^6 \left\lfloor \frac{n - 2i - 1}{2} \right\rfloor = 6 \left\lfloor \frac{n - 1}{2} \right\rfloor - 82 = \begin{cases} 3n - 85 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 3n - 88 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

trees with greater energy than $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$, for large enough n . $\square$

For a tree T , let $\text{diam}(T)$ denote the diameter of T , defined as the length of a longest path in T . The following theorem is a simple consequence of the results obtained so far:

Theorem 4. *For all i in $I' = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18\}$ and n large enough, the n -vertex tree with diameter $n - i - 1$ and maximum energy is $T(i, 2\lceil i/2 \rceil, n - 2\lceil i/2 \rceil - i - 1)$.*

Proof. Let i be an element of I' and T_i be a tree of diameter $n - i - 1$ which is maximal with respect to the energy. We know that $\text{diam}(P_n) = n - 1 > n - i - 1$ for all $n \geq i + 1$, hence $T_i \neq P_n$. As we have seen above for large enough n (in particular we assume $n \geq 3i + 1$), there exists a tripod $T(i, j_0, n - j_0 - i - 1)$ which has diameter $n - i - 1$ such that $\text{En}(T(i, j_0, n - j_0 - i - 1)) > \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, 2, n))$. Using Theorem 2 this implies that T_i is a tripod. More precisely $T_i = T(i, j, n - j - i - 1)$ for some $j \geq i$, in order to satisfy $\text{diam}(T_i) = n - i - 1$. From Theorem 1, if $j \neq 2\lceil i/2 \rceil$, then we have

$$\text{En}(T(i, j, n - j - i - 1)) < \text{En}(T(i, 2\lceil i/2 \rceil, n - 2\lceil i/2 \rceil - i - 1)).$$

Therefore, we conclude that $T_i = T(i, 2\lceil i/2 \rceil, n - 2\lceil i/2 \rceil - i - 1)$. $\square$

5 Main result

For simplicity we write $G > G'$ instead of $\text{En}(G) > \text{En}(G')$. By ordering all the tripods with larger energy than that of $H(2, 2, 2, 2, n)$ we obtain the head of the list of trees ordered by decreasing energy, until the first appearance of a non-tripod. Each “...” in the list refers to the chain obtained for a fixed shortest branch by using Theorem 1. For any inequality that cannot be obtained from Theorem 1, see the values in the appendix:

Theorem 5. *The head of the list of all trees ordered by decreasing energy is given as follows for large enough n :*

P_n	>	$T(2, 2, n - 5)$	>	...	>	$T(2, 7, n - 10)$	>
$T(4, 4, n - 9)$	>	$T(2, 5, n - 8)$	>	$T(4, 6, n - 11)$	>	$T(2, 3, n - 6)$	>
$T(4, 8, n - 13)$	>	...	>	$T(4, 18, n - 23)$	>	$T(6, 6, n - 13)$	>
$T(4, 20, n - 25)$	>	...	>	$T(4, 15, n - 20)$	>	$T(6, 8, n - 15)$	>
$T(4, 13, n - 18)$	>	$T(4, 11, n - 16)$	>	$T(6, 10, n - 17)$	>	$T(4, 9, n - 14)$	>
$T(6, 12, n - 19)$	>	$T(8, 8, n - 17)$	>	$T(6, 14, n - 21)$	>	$T(4, 7, n - 12)$	>
$T(6, 16, n - 23)$	>	$T(6, 18, n - 25)$	>	...	>	$T(6, 26, n - 33)$	>
$T(8, 10, n - 19)$	>	$T(6, 28, n - 35)$	>	...	>	$T(6, 39, n - 46)$	>
$T(8, 12, n - 21)$	>	$T(6, 37, n - 44)$	>	...	>	$T(6, 33, n - 30)$	>
$T(8, 14, n - 23)$	>	$T(10, 10, n - 21)$	>	$T(6, 21, n - 28)$	>	$T(4, 5, n - 10)$	>
$T(6, 19, n - 26)$	>	$T(8, 16, n - 25)$	>	$T(8, 18, n - 27)$	>	$T(8, 20, n - 29)$	>
$T(10, 12, n - 23)$	>	$T(8, 22, n - 31)$	>	...	>	$T(8, 30, n - 39)$	>
$T(10, 14, n - 25)$	>	$T(8, 32, n - 41)$	>	...	>	$T(8, 56, n - 65)$	>
$T(12, 12, n - 25)$	>	$T(8, 58, n - 67)$	>	...	>	$T(8, 86, n - 93)$	>
$T(10, 16, n - 27)$	>	$T(8, 88, n - 97)$	>	...	>	$T(8, 49, n - 58)$	>
$T(10, 18, n - 29)$	>	$T(8, 47, n - 56)$	>	...	>	$T(8, 33, n - 42)$	>
$T(12, 14, n - 27)$	>	$T(10, 20, n - 31)$	>	$T(8, 31, n - 40)$	>	$T(8, 29, n - 37)$	>
$T(8, 27, n - 36)$	>	$T(10, 22, n - 33)$	>	$T(8, 25, n - 34)$	>	$T(10, 24, n - 35)$	>
$T(8, 23, n - 32)$	>	$T(12, 16, n - 29)$	>	$T(10, 26, n - 37)$	>	$T(1, 2, n - 4)$	>
$T(8, 21, n - 30)$	>	$T(10, 28, n - 39)$	>	$T(10, 30, n - 41)$	>	$T(14, 14, n - 29)$	>
$T(10, 32, n - 43)$	>	$T(8, 19, n - 28)$	>	$T(10, 34, n - 45)$	>	$T(12, 18, n - 31)$	>
$T(10, 36, n - 47)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 44, n - 55)$	>	$T(8, 17, n - 26)$	>
$T(10, 46, n - 57)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 52, n - 63)$	>	$T(12, 20, n - 33)$	>
$T(10, 54, n - 65)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 70, n - 81)$	>	$T(14, 16, n - 31)$	>
$T(10, 72, n - 83)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 182, n - 193)$	>	$T(12, 22, n - 35)$	>
$T(10, 184, n - 195)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 175, n - 186)$	>	$T(8, 15, n - 24)$	>
$T(10, 173, n - 184)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 69, n - 80)$	>	$T(12, 24, n - 37)$	>
$T(10, 67, n - 78)$	>	...	>	$T(10, 53, n - 64)$	>	$T(14, 18, n - 33)$	>
$T(10, 51, n - 62)$	>	$T(10, 49, n - 60)$	>	$T(12, 26, n - 39)$	>	$T(10, 47, n - 58)$	>
...	>	$T(10, 41, n - 52)$	>	$T(16, 16, n - 33)$	>	$T(12, 28, n - 41)$	>
$T(10, 39, n - 50)$	>	$T(10, 37, n - 49)$	>	$T(8, 13, n - 22)$	>	$T(12, 30, n - 43)$	>
$T(10, 35, n - 46)$	>	$T(14, 20, n - 35)$	>	$T(10, 33, n - 44)$	>	$T(12, 32, n - 45)$	>
$T(10, 31, n - 42)$	>	$T(12, 34, n - 47)$	>	$T(12, 36, n - 49)$	>	$T(10, 29, n - 40)$	>
$T(12, 38, n - 51)$	>	$T(14, 22, n - 37)$	>	$T(16, 18, n - 35)$	>	$T(12, 40, n - 53)$	>
$T(10, 27, n - 39)$	>	$T(12, 42, n - 55)$	>	$T(12, 44, n - 57)$	>	$T(12, 46, n - 59)$	>
$T(10, 25, n - 36)$	>	$T(12, 48, n - 61)$	>	$T(14, 24, n - 39)$	>	$T(12, 50, n - 63)$	>
...	>	$T(12, 64, n - 77)$	>	$T(10, 23, n - 34)$	>	$T(12, 66, n - 79)$	>
...	>	$T(12, 70, n - 83)$	>	$T(14, 26, n - 41)$	>	$T(16, 20, n - 37)$	>
$T(12, 72, n - 85)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 92, n - 105)$	>	$T(8, 11, n - 20)$	>
$T(12, 94, n - 107)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 130, n - 143)$	>	$T(18, 18, n - 37)$	>
$T(12, 132, n - 145)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 162, n - 175)$	>	$T(14, 28, n - 43)$	>
$T(12, 164, n - 177)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 224, n - 237)$	>	$T(10, 21, n - 32)$	>
$T(12, 226, n - 239)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 219, n - 232)$	>	$T(3, 4, n - 8)$	>
$T(12, 217, n - 230)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 111, n - 124)$	>	$T(14, 30, n - 45)$	>
$T(12, 109, n - 122)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 99, n - 112)$	>	$T(16, 22, n - 39)$	>
$T(12, 97, n - 110)$	>	...	>	$T(12, 85, n - 98)$	>	$H(2, 2, 2, n)$	>

Computer check shows that Theorem 5 holds for all odd n starting from 21777 to

30001 and for all even n starting from 30866 to 40000. Our final conjecture is based on this observation.

Conjecture 1. *Theorem 5 holds for all odd $n \geq 21777$ and for all even $n \geq 30866$.*

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Appendix

Let us denote by $\mathfrak{d}(i, j)$ the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{En}(T(i, j, n - i - j - 1)) - \text{En}(H(2, 2, 2, n))$$

for all integers $i \leq j$. Then we have the following values rounded to six decimal places:

$\mathfrak{d}(2, 2) \approx 0.065993$	$\mathfrak{d}(2, 7) \approx 0.040329$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 4) \approx 0.037612$
$\mathfrak{d}(2, 5) \approx 0.037493$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 6) \approx 0.031345$	$\mathfrak{d}(2, 3) \approx 0.030513$
$\mathfrak{d}(4, 8) \approx 0.028282$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 18) \approx 0.023946$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 6) \approx 0.023909$
$\mathfrak{d}(4, 20) \approx 0.023683$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 15) \approx 0.020244$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 8) \approx 0.020135$
$\mathfrak{d}(4, 13) \approx 0.019647$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 11) \approx 0.018763$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 10) \approx 0.017948$
$\mathfrak{d}(4, 9) \approx 0.017378$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 12) \approx 0.016566$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 8) \approx 0.015891$
$\mathfrak{d}(6, 14) \approx 0.015637$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 7) \approx 0.015026$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 16) \approx 0.014983$
$\mathfrak{d}(6, 18) \approx 0.014504$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 26) \approx 0.013472$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 10) \approx 0.013381$
$\mathfrak{d}(6, 28) \approx 0.013329$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 39) \approx 0.011775$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 12) \approx 0.011767$
$\mathfrak{d}(6, 37) \approx 0.011718$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 23) \approx 0.010881$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 14) \approx 0.010667$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 10) \approx 0.010636$	$\mathfrak{d}(6, 21) \approx 0.010629$	$\mathfrak{d}(4, 5) \approx 0.010537$
$\mathfrak{d}(6, 19) \approx 0.010306$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 16) \approx 0.009883$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 18) \approx 0.009304$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 20) \approx 0.008864$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 12) \approx 0.008849$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 22) \approx 0.008523$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 30) \approx 0.007708$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 14) \approx 0.007616$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 32) \approx 0.007584$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 56) \approx 0.006934$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 12) \approx 0.006928$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 58) \approx 0.006911$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 86) \approx 0.006732$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 16) \approx 0.006729$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 88) \approx 0.006725$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 49) \approx 0.006104$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 18) \approx 0.006069$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 47) \approx 0.006066$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 33) \approx 0.005602$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 14) \approx 0.005592$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 20) \approx 0.005564$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 31) \approx 0.005486$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 29) \approx 0.005347$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 27) \approx 0.005181$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 22) \approx 0.005169$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 25) \approx 0.004979$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 24) \approx 0.004855$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 23) \approx 0.00473$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 16) \approx 0.004622$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 26) \approx 0.0046$
$\mathfrak{d}(1, 2) \approx 0.004585$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 21) \approx 0.004418$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 28) \approx 0.004391$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 30) \approx 0.004217$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 14) \approx 0.004172$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 32) \approx 0.004071$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 19) \approx 0.004018$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 34) \approx 0.003947$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 18) \approx 0.003895$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 36) \approx 0.003841$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 44) \approx 0.00354$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 17) \approx 0.003497$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 46) \approx 0.003486$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 52) \approx 0.003358$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 20) \approx 0.003336$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 54) \approx 0.003324$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 70) \approx 0.003141$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 16) \approx 0.003135$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 72) \approx 0.003126$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 182) \approx 0.002896$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 22) \approx 0.002896$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 184) \approx 0.002895$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 175) \approx 0.0028$	$\mathfrak{d}(8, 15) \approx 0.002799$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 173) \approx 0.002799$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 69) \approx 0.002548$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 24) \approx 0.002544$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 67) \approx 0.002531$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 53) \approx 0.002355$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 18) \approx 0.002354$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 51) \approx 0.002318$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 49) \approx 0.002277$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 26) \approx 0.002258$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 47) \approx 0.002231$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 41) \approx 0.002055$	$\mathfrak{d}(16, 16) \approx 0.002043$
$\mathfrak{d}(12, 28) \approx 0.002022$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 39) \approx 0.001979$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 37) \approx 0.001892$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 13) \approx 0.001834$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 30) \approx 0.001825$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 35) \approx 0.001792$
$\mathfrak{d}(14, 20) \approx 0.001749$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 33) \approx 0.001674$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 32) \approx 0.001659$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 31) \approx 0.001536$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 34) \approx 0.001518$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 36) \approx 0.001397$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 29) \approx 0.001373$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 38) \approx 0.001292$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 22) \approx 0.001271$
$\mathfrak{d}(16, 18) \approx 0.001216$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 40) \approx 0.001201$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 27) \approx 0.001176$
$\mathfrak{d}(12, 42) \approx 0.001122$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 44) \approx 0.001052$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 46) \approx 0.00099$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 25) \approx 0.000938$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 48) \approx 0.000934$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 24) \approx 0.000887$

$\mathfrak{d}(12, 50) \approx 0.000885$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 64) \approx 0.000651$	$\mathfrak{d}(10, 23) \approx 0.000646$
$\mathfrak{d}(12, 66) \approx 0.000629$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 70) \approx 0.000589$	$\mathfrak{d}(14, 26) \approx 0.000573$
$\mathfrak{d}(16, 20) \approx 0.000573$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 72) \approx 0.000571$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 92) \approx 0.00045$
$\mathfrak{d}(8, 11) \approx 0.000443$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 94) \approx 0.000442$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 130) \approx 0.000351$
$\mathfrak{d}(18, 18) \approx 0.00035$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 132) \approx 0.000348$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 162) \approx 0.000314$
$\mathfrak{d}(14, 28) \approx 0.000314$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 164) \approx 0.000312$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 224) \approx 0.000282$
$\mathfrak{d}(10, 21) \approx 0.000281$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 226) \approx 0.000281$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 219) \approx 0.000207$
$\mathfrak{d}(3, 4) \approx 0.000206$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 217) \approx 0.000206$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 111) \approx 0.000101$
$\mathfrak{d}(14, 30) \approx 0.000097$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 109) \approx 0.000096$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 99) \approx 0.000065$
$\mathfrak{d}(16, 22) \approx 0.000063$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 97) \approx 0.000058$	$\mathfrak{d}(12, 85) \approx 0.000005.$