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## A NOTE ON BLOCK REPRESENTATIONS OF THE GROUP INVERSE OF LAPLACIAN MATRICES\*

CHANGJIANG BU<sup>†</sup>, LIZHU SUN<sup>†</sup>, JIANG ZHOU<sup>†</sup>, AND YIMIN WEI<sup>‡</sup>

**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a weighted graph with Laplacian matrix  $L$  and signless Laplacian matrix  $Q$ . In this note, block representations for the group inverse of  $L$  and  $Q$  are given. The resistance distance in a graph can be obtained from the block representation of the group inverse of  $L$ .

**Key words.** Group inverse, Laplacian matrix, Signless Laplacian matrix, Resistance distance.

**AMS subject classifications.** 15A09, 05C50, 05C12.

**1. Introduction.** For an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the *group inverse* of  $A$  is the unique  $n \times n$  matrix  $X$  satisfying the matrix equations  $AXA = A$ ,  $XAX = X$  and  $AX = XA$ . It is well known that the group inverse of  $A$  exists if and only if  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^2)$  (see [28,29]). If the group inverse of  $A$  exists, it is unique, which is denoted by  $A^\#$ . The matrix  $A$  is *group invertible* if  $A^\#$  exists. For a matrix  $B$ , let  $B^+$  denote the Moore-Penrose inverse of  $B$ . Some representations for the group inverse of block matrices (operators) are given in [2–8,11,12,14,16,17,28]. More details for the theory of generalized inverse can be found in [9].

Let  $G$  be a undirected weighted graph without loops or multiple edges, and each edge of  $G$  has been labeled by a positive real number, which is called the *weight* of the edge. The *adjacency matrix*  $A$  of  $G$  is the matrix whose  $(i, j)$ -entry equals 0 if there is no edge joining vertices  $i$  and  $j$  and equals the weight of the edge joining vertices  $i$  and  $j$  otherwise. Let  $D$  be the diagonal matrix whose  $i$ -th diagonal entry equals the sum of the weights of the edges incident to the vertex  $i$  in  $G$ . The matrices  $D - A$  and  $D + A$  are called the *Laplacian matrix* and *signless Laplacian matrix* of  $G$ , respectively. It is known that  $D - A$  and  $D + A$  are positive semidefinite.

Let  $L$  be the Laplacian matrix of a weighted graph  $G$ . Since  $L$  is symmetric,

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$L^\#$  exists and  $L^\# = L^+$  (see [9]). In [20], Kirkland et al. gave a representation for the group inverse of irreducible Laplacian matrices in terms of bottleneck matrix and all-ones matrix. In [18], Ho and van Dooren used an SVD (singular value decomposition) approach to calculate the Moore-Penrose (group) inverse of the Laplacian of a bipartite graph. In this note, we give a block representation for the group inverse of (signless) Laplacian matrices. Applying this block representation, we give a formulae for the resistance distance in a graph.

**2. Some lemmas.** For a group invertible matrix  $S$ , let  $S^\pi$  denote the projection matrix  $I - SS^\#$ , where  $I$  is the identity matrix.

LEMMA 2.1. [25] *Let  $M$  be a Hermitian positive semidefinite matrix, which is partitioned as  $M = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $A^\pi B = 0$ ,  $BC^\pi = 0$ .*

LEMMA 2.2. [3] *Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $A$  is nonsingular, and  $S = D - CA^{-1}B$  is group invertible. Then  $M^\#$  exists if and only if  $R = A^2 + BS^\pi C$  is nonsingular. If  $M^\#$  exists, then*

$$M^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Z & W \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} X &= AR^{-1}(A + BS^\pi C)R^{-1}A, \\ Y &= AR^{-1}(A + BS^\pi C)R^{-1}BS^\pi - AR^{-1}BS^\#, \\ Z &= S^\pi CR^{-1}(A + BS^\pi C)R^{-1}A - S^\pi CR^{-1}A, \\ W &= S^\pi CR^{-1}(A + BS^\pi C)R^{-1}BS^\pi - S^\pi CR^{-1}BS^\pi - S^\pi CR^{-1}BS^\# + S^\#. \end{aligned}$$

Klein and Randić introduced the concept of resistance distance in [21]. A graph  $G$  can be viewed as an electrical network  $N$  by replacing each edge of  $G$  with a resistor. For two vertices  $i$  and  $j$  in  $G$ , the *resistance distance* between them is defined to be the effective resistance between them in the electrical network  $N$  (see [21]). The resistance distance is a distance function in graphs, it has important applications in chemical graph theory. Some results on resistance distance can be found in [13,21,24,26,27].

For a matrix  $M$ , let  $M_{ij}$  denote the  $(i, j)$ -entry of  $M$ . Let  $G$  be a connected weighted graph with Laplacian matrix  $L$ . Let  $\Omega_{ij}$  denote the resistance distance between vertices  $i$  and  $j$  in  $G$ . It is known that  $\Omega_{ij} = L_{ii}^+ + L_{jj}^+ - L_{ij}^+ - L_{ji}^+$  (see [1]). Note that  $L$  is symmetric,  $L^\# = L^+$ . Hence, we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $G$  be a connected weighted graph with vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and Laplacian matrix  $L$ . Then  $\Omega_{ij} = L_{ii}^\# + L_{jj}^\# - L_{ij}^\# - L_{ji}^\#$ .*

**3. Main results.** Some expressions for the Moore-Penrose inverse of a  $2 \times 2$  block matrix are given in [19,22]. But the expressions in [19,22] are very complicated. We first give a new expression for the group inverse of Laplacian matrices as follow.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a weighted graph with Laplacian matrix  $L$ . If  $L$  is partitioned as  $L = \begin{pmatrix} L_1 & L_2 \\ L_2^\top & L_3 \end{pmatrix}$  ( $L_1$  is square), then*

$$L^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^\top & Z \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} X &= L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_1, \\ Y &= L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_2 S^\pi - L_1 R^\# L_2 S^\#, \\ Z &= S^\pi L_2^\top R^\# K R^\# L_2 S^\pi - S^\# L_2^\top R^\# L_2 S^\pi - S^\pi L_2^\top R^\# L_2 S^\# + S^\#, \\ R &= L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top, \\ K &= L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top, \\ S &= L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Since  $L_1, L_3$  are real symmetric, there exist orthogonal matrices  $P_1, P_2$  such that

$$L_1 = P_1 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} P_1^\top, \quad L_3 = P_2 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} P_2^\top,$$

where  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$  are nonsingular diagonal matrices, the zero blocks can be vacuous. Then we have

$$L_1^\# = P_1 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_1^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} P_1^\top, \quad L_3^\# = P_2 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_2^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} P_2^\top.$$

Suppose that  $L_2 = P_1 \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & M_2 \\ M_3 & M_4 \end{pmatrix} P_2^\top$ . By Lemma 2.1, we have  $L_1^\pi L_2 = 0$ ,  $L_2 L_3^\pi = 0$ . Hence,  $M_2 = 0$ ,  $M_3 = 0$ ,  $M_4 = 0$ . Then

$$L^\# = \begin{pmatrix} P_1 & 0 \\ 0 & P_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_1 & 0 & M_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ M_1^\top & 0 & \Delta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^\# \begin{pmatrix} P_1^\top & 0 \\ 0 & P_2^\top \end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix} M^\# & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^{-1},$$

where  $M = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_1 & M_1 \\ M_1^\top & \Delta_2 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $U = \begin{pmatrix} P_1 & 0 \\ 0 & P_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$ . Recall that  $\Delta_1$  is a

nonsingular diagonal matrix. Since  $\Delta_2 - M_1^\top \Delta_1^{-1} M_1$ , the Schur complement of  $M$ , is real symmetric, it is group invertible. By Lemma 2.2, we have

$$M^\# = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{X} & \tilde{Y} \\ \tilde{Y}^\top & \tilde{W} \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{X} &= \Delta_1 \tilde{R}^{-1} \tilde{K} \tilde{R}^{-1} \Delta_1, \\ \tilde{Y} &= \Delta_1 \tilde{R}^{-1} \tilde{K} \tilde{R}^{-1} M_1 \tilde{S}^\pi - \Delta_1 \tilde{R}^{-1} M_1 \tilde{S}^\#, \\ \tilde{W} &= \tilde{S}^\pi M_1^\top \tilde{R}^{-1} \tilde{K} \tilde{R}^{-1} M_1 \tilde{S}^\pi - \tilde{S}^\# M_1^\top \tilde{R}^{-1} M_1 \tilde{S}^\pi - \tilde{S}^\pi M_1^\top \tilde{R}^{-1} M_1 \tilde{S}^\# + \tilde{S}^\#, \\ \tilde{R} &= \Delta_1^2 + M_1 \tilde{S}^\pi M_1^\top, \\ \tilde{K} &= \Delta_1 + M_1 \tilde{S}^\# M_1^\top, \\ \tilde{S} &= \Delta_2 - M_1^\top \Delta_1^{-1} M_1. \end{aligned}$$

By  $L^\# = U \begin{pmatrix} M^\# & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^{-1}$ , we can obtain the representation of  $L^\#$ .  $\square$

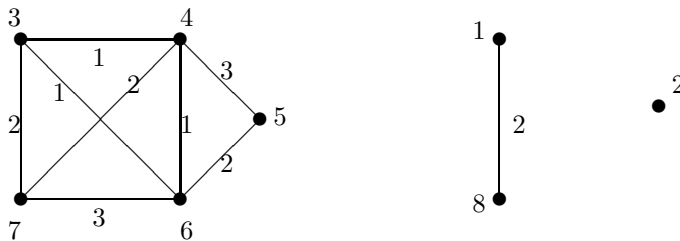


Figure 1: Weighted graph  $G$ .

Let  $F_1, F_2$  be two subsets of the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . The complement of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  are denoted by  $\overline{F_1}$  and  $\overline{F_2}$ , respectively. For a matrix  $L$  of order  $n$ , let  $L[F_1|F_2]$  denote the submatrix of  $L$  determined by the rows whose index is in  $F_1$  and the columns whose index is in  $F_2$ . Here we give an example for Theorem 3.1.

Considering the weighted graph  $G$  shown in Figure 1. The Laplacian matrix of  $G$  is

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 7 & -3 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3 & 5 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 & 7 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 0 & -3 & 7 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $L_1 = L[\{1\}|\{1\}]$ ,  $L_2 = L[\{1\}|\overline{\{1\}}]$ ,  $L_3 = L[\overline{\{1\}}|\overline{\{1\}}]$ . Then

$$S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 7 & -3 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 5 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 & 7 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 & 0 & -3 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2052/11725 & -548/11725 & -139/1675 & -438/11725 & -93/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -548/11725 & 1152/11725 & 11/1675 & -363/11725 & -318/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -139/1675 & 11/1675 & 261/1675 & -34/1675 & -99/1675 & 0 \\ 0 & -438/11725 & -363/11725 & -34/1675 & 1122/11725 & -83/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -93/11725 & -318/11725 & -99/1675 & -83/11725 & 1187/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$K = L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top = 2, \quad R = L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top = 8, \quad R^\# = 1/8.$$

By Theorem 3.1, we get  $L^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^\top & Z \end{pmatrix}$ , where

$$X = 1/8, \quad Y = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -1/8),$$

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2052/11725 & -548/11725 & -139/1675 & -438/11725 & -93/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -548/11725 & 1152/11725 & 11/1675 & -363/11725 & -318/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -139/1675 & 11/1675 & 261/1675 & -34/1675 & -99/1675 & 0 \\ 0 & -438/11725 & -363/11725 & -34/1675 & 1122/11725 & -83/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & -93/11725 & -318/11725 & -99/1675 & -83/11725 & 1187/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If we let  $L_1 = L[\{1, 2\}|\{1, 2\}]$ ,  $L_2 = L[\{1, 2\}|\overline{\{1, 2\}}]$ ,  $L_3 = L[\overline{\{1, 2\}}|\overline{\{1, 2\}}]$ , then

$$S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 7 & -3 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 5 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -2 & 7 & -3 & 0 \\ -2 & -2 & 0 & -3 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 2052/11725 & -548/11725 & -139/1675 & -438/11725 & -93/11725 & 0 \\ -548/11725 & 1152/11725 & 11/1675 & -363/11725 & -318/11725 & 0 \\ -139/1675 & 11/1675 & 261/1675 & -34/1675 & -99/1675 & 0 \\ -438/11725 & -363/11725 & -34/1675 & 1122/11725 & -83/11725 & 0 \\ -93/11725 & -318/11725 & -99/1675 & -83/11725 & 1187/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$R = L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top = \begin{pmatrix} 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 1/8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad K = L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By Theorem 3.1, we get  $L^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^\top & Z \end{pmatrix}$ , where

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1/8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1/8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 2052/11725 & -548/11725 & -139/1675 & -438/11725 & -93/11725 & 0 \\ -548/11725 & 1152/11725 & 11/1675 & -363/11725 & -318/11725 & 0 \\ -139/1675 & 11/1675 & 261/1675 & -34/1675 & -99/1675 & 0 \\ -438/11725 & -363/11725 & -34/1675 & 1122/11725 & -83/11725 & 0 \\ -93/11725 & -318/11725 & -99/1675 & -83/11725 & 1187/11725 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $L$  be the Laplacian matrix of a weighted graph, and  $L$  is partitioned as  $L = \begin{pmatrix} L_1 & L_2 \\ L_2^\top & L_3 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $L_1$  is square. The group inverse of generalized Schur complement  $S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2$  plays the key role in the block representation of  $L^\#$  (cf. Theorem 3.1). The Laplacian matrix is an M-matrix. It is known that the Schur complement of an M-matrix is an M-matrix (see [15]). Hence,  $S$  is an M-matrix. Clearly, we have  $Le = 0$ , where  $e$  denotes an all-ones column vector with suitable dimension. By  $Le = 0$ , we get  $L_1 e + L_2 e = 0, L_2^\top e + L_3 e = 0$ . Then we have

$$Se = L_3 e - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2 e = -L_2^\top e + L_2^\top L_1^\# L_1 e = -L_2^\top L_1^\pi e = -(L_1^\pi L_2)^\top e.$$

Lemma 2.1 implies that  $Se = 0$ . Clearly,  $S$  is symmetric. Since  $S$  is an M-matrix and  $Se = 0$ ,  $S$  is the Laplacian matrix of a weighted graph. Hence, we can obtain a block representation for  $S^\#$  from Theorem 3.1. We give a algorithm for  $L^\#$  as follows.

**Step 1.** Let  $L = \begin{pmatrix} L_1 & L_2 \\ L_2^\top & L_3 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $L_1$  is square. Apply Theorem 3.1 to represent  $L^\#$ .

**Step 2.** Let  $S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2 = \begin{pmatrix} S_1 & S_2 \\ S_2^\top & S_3 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $S_1$  is square. Go to step 1 to calculate  $S^\#$ .

The group inverse of matrices has numerous applications in singular differential equations, Markov chains and iterative methods etc (see [9,10,23]). Here we give a new application for the group inverses of  $2 \times 2$  block matrices.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a weighted graph with Laplacian matrix  $L$ . Let  $i$  and  $j$  be two vertices of  $G$ , and  $i$  and  $j$  belong to the same component of  $G$ . Then the resistance distance between  $i$  and  $j$  is  $\Omega_{ij} = \epsilon X \epsilon^\top$ , where*

$$\epsilon = (1 \quad -1), \quad X = L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_1, \quad R = L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top, \quad K = L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top, \\ S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2, \quad L_1 = L[\{i, j\}|\{i, j\}], \quad L_2 = L[\{i, j\}|\overline{\{i, j\}}], \quad L_3 = L(\overline{\{i, j\}}|\overline{\{i, j\}}).$$



*Proof.* There exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $L = P \begin{pmatrix} L_1 & L_2 \\ L_2^\top & L_3 \end{pmatrix} P^\top$ , where  $L_1 = L[\{i, j\}|\{i, j\}]$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have

$$L^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^\top & Z \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} X &= L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_1, \quad Y = L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_2 S^\pi - L_1 R^\# L_2 S^\#, \\ Z &= S^\pi L_2^\top R^\# K R^\# L_2 S^\pi - S^\# L_2^\top R^\# L_2 S^\pi - S^\pi L_2^\top R^\# L_2 S^\# + S^\#, \\ R &= L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top, \quad K = L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top, \quad S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.3 implies that  $\Omega_{ij} = (1 \quad -1) X (1 \quad -1)^\top$ .  $\square$

Now we use Theorem 3.2 to calculate the resistance distance between vertices 4 and 6 in the weighted graph  $G$  shown in Figure 1. Let  $L$  be the Laplacian matrix of  $G$ . Let  $L_1 = L[\{4, 6\}|\{4, 6\}]$ ,  $L_2 = L[\{4, 6\}|\{4, 6\}]$ ,  $L_3 = L(\{4, 6\}|\{4, 6\})$ . Then

$$S = L_3 - L_2^\top L_1^\# L_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 11/3 & -5/6 & -17/6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5/6 & 137/48 & -97/48 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -17/6 & -97/48 & 233/48 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 1/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1/8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 188/1407 & -142/1407 & -46/1407 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -142/1407 & 227/1407 & -85/1407 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -46/1407 & -85/1407 & 131/1407 & 0 \\ -1/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/8 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S^\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$K = L_1 + L_2 S^\# L_2^\top = \begin{pmatrix} 3516/469 & -372/469 \\ -372/469 & 3420/469 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = L_1^2 + L_2 S^\pi L_2^\top = \begin{pmatrix} 62 & -2 \\ -2 & 62 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$R^\# = \begin{pmatrix} 31/1920 & 1/1920 \\ 1/1920 & 31/1920 \end{pmatrix}, \quad X = L_1 R^\# K R^\# L_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1152/11725 & -363/11725 \\ -363/11725 & 1122/11725 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By Theorem 3.2, the resistance distance between vertices 4 and 6 is

$$\Omega_{46} = (1 \quad -1) \begin{pmatrix} 1152/11725 & -363/11725 \\ -363/11725 & 1122/11725 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 120/469.$$

For a connected graph  $G$ , let  $d(u, v)$  denote the distance between two vertices  $u, v$  in  $G$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with signless Laplacian matrix  $Q$ . Let  $u$  and  $v$  be two vertices of  $G$ . Then*

$$\Omega_{uv} = \begin{cases} Q_{uu}^\# + Q_{vv}^\# + Q_{uv}^\# + Q_{vu}^\# & \text{if } d(u, v) \text{ is odd,} \\ Q_{uu}^\# + Q_{vv}^\# - Q_{uv}^\# - Q_{vu}^\# & \text{if } d(u, v) \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Since  $G$  is a bipartite graph, its adjacency matrix can be written as  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , where two zero sub-blocks of  $A$  correspond to the two color classes of  $G$ . Suppose that  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & B \\ B^\top & D_2 \end{pmatrix}$  is the signless Laplacian matrix of  $G$ . Then  $L = \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & -B \\ -B^\top & D_2 \end{pmatrix}$  is the Laplacian matrix of  $G$ . Clearly, we have

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & -B \\ -B^\top & D_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix},$$

$$Q^\# = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & -B \\ -B^\top & D_2 \end{pmatrix}^\# \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix}.$$

If  $d(u, v)$  is odd, then  $u, v$  belong to different color classes of  $G$ . Lemma 2.3 implies that  $\Omega_{uv} = Q_{uu}^\# + Q_{vv}^\# + Q_{uv}^\# + Q_{vu}^\#$ . If  $d(u, v)$  is even, then  $u, v$  belong to the same color class of  $G$ . Lemma 2.3 implies that  $\Omega_{uv} = Q_{uu}^\# + Q_{vv}^\# - Q_{uv}^\# - Q_{vu}^\#$ .  $\square$

Let  $G$  be a weighted graph with signless Laplacian matrix  $Q$ , and  $Q$  is partitioned as  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 \\ Q_2^\top & Q_3 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $Q_1$  is square. It is known that  $Q$  is positive semidefinite. By Lemma 2.1, we have  $Q_1^\top Q_2 = 0$ ,  $Q_2 Q_3^\top = 0$ . It is not difficult to get the representation for  $Q^\#$ .

THEOREM 3.4. Let  $G$  be a weighted graph with signless Laplacian matrix  $Q$ . If  $Q$  is partitioned as  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 \\ Q_2^\top & Q_3 \end{pmatrix}$  ( $Q_1$  is square), then

$$Q^\# = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^\top & Z \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} X &= Q_1 R^\# K R^\# Q_1, \quad Y = Q_1 R^\# K R^\# Q_2 S^\pi - Q_1 R^\# Q_2 S^\#, \\ Z &= S^\pi Q_2^\top R^\# K R^\# Q_2 S^\pi - S^\# Q_2^\top R^\# Q_2 S^\pi - S^\pi Q_2^\top R^\# Q_2 S^\# + S^\#, \\ R &= Q_1^2 + Q_2 S^\pi Q_2^\top, \quad K = Q_1 + Q_2 S^\# Q_2^\top, \quad S = Q_3 - Q_2^\top Q_1^\# Q_2. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

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