Global Clustering Coefficient of the Products of Complete Graphs

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Authors’ contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/ARJOM/2022/v18i630384

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/87167

Received: 18 March 2022
Accepted: 20 May 2022
Published: 23 May 2022

Abstract

The global clustering coefficient $Cc(G)$ of a connected graph $G$ of order at least 3 is a metric that somehow measures how close $G$ to being a complete graph. Its value ranges from 0 to 1. In this paper, we will show that for the tensor product $K_m \otimes K_m$ and cartesian product $K_m \square K_m$, $Cc(K_m \otimes K_m)$ and $Cc(K_m \square K_m)$ approach to 1 and 1/2, respectively, as $m \to \infty$.

Keywords: Clustering coefficient; tensor product; cartesian product; regular graphs.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C09, 05C38, 05C76.

1 Introduction

Let $G$ be a simple undirected graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. Let $N_G(v) = \{u \in V(G) : uv \in E(G)\}$ be the open neighborhood of a vertex $v \in V(G)$, $\deg_G(v)$ the degree of $v$, and $t_G(v) = |E([N_G(v)])|$ the number of triangles in $G$ which are incident to $v$. The local clustering coefficient of vertex $v$ in $G$, denoted by $Cc_v(G)$, is a measure that evaluates the local triangle density of $G$ at the level of vertex $v$. This number $Cc_v(G)$ can be defined as

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\[
Cc_v(G) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if } \deg_G v \leq 1, \\
\frac{t_G(v)}{\deg_G v^2}, & \text{if } \deg_G v \geq 2.
\end{cases}
\tag{1.1}
\]

This formula is a unifying version between its treatment in [1] and [2]. On the other hand, the global clustering coefficient \(Cc(G)\) of a graph \(G\) with order \(n\) is a measure that indicates the overall clustering of \(G\), obtained by averaging the local clustering coefficients of all the vertices in \(G\). That is,

\[
Cc(G) = 0 \text{ if } \deg_G v \leq 1 \text{ for each } v \in V(G); \text{ otherwise,}
\]

\[
Cc(G) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{v \in V(G)} \sum_{\deg_G v \geq 2} \frac{2t_G(v)}{\deg_G v(\deg_G v - 1)}.
\tag{1.2}
\]

This measure was introduced in the field of social network analysis by Duncan J. Watts and Steven Strogatz [3] in 1998, where one of its goals was to determine whether a graph was a "small-world network". Since then, several studies from various perspectives have also emerged. In [4], the authors gave some expressions and bounds for the global clustering coefficient of the tensor product of graphs, although a related study on finding the number of distinct triangles in the tensor product \(G \otimes H\) was done in [5], while a triangle-counting algorithm for large networks appeared in [6].

In this paper, we investigate the global clustering coefficients of the tensor and cartesian product of complete graphs using some properties that the tensor and cartesian product hold and some inherent characteristics possessed by the complete graphs \(K_m\) such as in the observation given below. The scope of this work falls within the general motivation of investigating graphs under some binary operations and expressing some of their parameterized values in terms of some relevant invariants of the constituent graphs such as the ones done in [7, 8, 9, 10]. Our final goal in this study is to prove that for the tensor product \(K_m \otimes K_m\) and cartesian product \(K_m \Box K_m\), \(Cc(K_m \otimes K_m)\) and \(Cc(K_m \Box K_m)\) approach to 1 and 1/2, respectively, as \(m \to \infty\). For basic graph theory terminologies not specifically described nor defined in this paper, please refer to either [11] or [12].

**Lemma 1.1** For the complete graph \(K_m\),

\[
Cc(K_m) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } m \geq 3, \\
0 & \text{if } m = 1, 2.
\end{cases}
\]

**Proof**: This is immediate from Equation (1.2). \(\square\)

### 2 Tensor Product of Complete Graphs

The tensor product \(G \otimes H\) of two graphs \(G\) and \(H\) is the graph with vertex set \(V(G \otimes H) = V(G) \times V(H)\) and edge set \(E(G \otimes H)\) satisfying the following adjacency condition: \((u, v)(u', v') \in E(G \otimes H)\) if and only if \(uu' \in E(G)\) and \(vv' \in E(H)\). A regular graph is a graph that has uniform degree in its vertices. If \(G\) is a regular graph with degree \(d\) in all its vertices, then we call \(G\) a \(d\)-regular graph. In [4], Damalerio and Eballe gave a formula for the global clustering coefficient of the tensor product of regular graphs in terms of the global clustering coefficient of each factor.
If \( G \) and \( H \) are regular graphs with regularities \( d_G \geq 2 \) and \( d_H \geq 2 \), respectively, then 
Theorem 3.1 in [4] asserts that

\[
Cc(G \otimes H) = f \cdot Cc(G) \cdot Cc(H),
\]
where \( f = (d_G - 1)(d_H - 1)/(d_G \cdot d_H - 1) \).

**Theorem 2.1** For the tensor product \( K_m \otimes K_n \), where \( m,n \geq 3 \),

\[
Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) = \frac{mn - 2m - 2n + 4}{mn - m - n}.
\]

**Proof:** Note that \( K_m \) and \( K_n \) are regular graphs with regularities \( m - 1 \) and \( n - 1 \), respectively. Using Lemma 1.1 and Equation (2.1), we have

\[
Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) = \frac{(m - 2)(n - 2)}{(m - 1)(n - 1) - 1} \cdot Cc(K_m) \cdot Cc(K_n)
\]

\[
= \frac{mn - 2m - 2n + 4}{mn - m - n} \cdot 1 \cdot 1.
\]

In the next result, we give an asymptotic value to \( Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) \), where \( n \geq 3 \) is held constant and \( m \to \infty \).

**Corollary 2.2** If \( n \geq 3 \) is considered constant, then \( Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) \to \frac{n - 2}{n - 1} \) as \( m \to \infty \).

**Proof:** Using Theorem 2.1, we have

\[
\lim_{m \to \infty} Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) = \lim_{m \to \infty} \frac{n - 2 - \frac{2m}{m} + \frac{4}{m}}{n - 1 - \frac{2}{m}} = \frac{n - 2}{n - 1}.
\]

**Corollary 2.3** For the tensor product \( K_m \otimes K_m \), \( Cc(K_m \otimes K_m) \to 1 \) as \( m \to \infty \).

**Proof:** Using Theorem 2.1, we have

\[
\lim_{m \to \infty} Cc(K_m \otimes K_m) = \lim_{m \to \infty} \frac{m^2 - 4m + 4}{m^2 - 2m} = \lim_{m \to \infty} \frac{1 - \frac{4}{m} + \frac{4}{m^2}}{1 - \frac{2}{m}} = 1.
\]

Actually, the values of \( Cc(K_m \otimes K_m) = \frac{m^2 - 4m + 4}{m^2 - 2m} \) can be shown to be strictly increasing. The next result gives an asymptotic value to \( Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) \), wherein both orders of the complete graphs, \( m \) and \( n \), approach positive infinity.
Corollary 2.4 For tensor product $K_m \otimes K_n$, $Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) \to 1$ as both $m, n \to \infty$.

Proof: Using Theorem 2.1, we have

$$
\lim_{m,n \to \infty} Cc(K_m \otimes K_n) = \lim_{m,n \to \infty} \frac{mn - 2m - 2n + 4}{mn - m - n} = \lim_{m,n \to \infty} \frac{1 - \frac{2}{n} - \frac{2}{m} + \frac{4}{mn}}{1 - \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{m}} = 1.
$$

3 Cartesian Product of Complete Graphs

Recall that the cartesian product $G \square H$ of two graphs $G$ and $H$ is the graph with vertex set $V(G \square H) = V(G) \times V(H)$ and edge-set $E(G \square H)$ satisfying the following conditions: $(u, v)(u', v') \in E(G \square H)$ if and only if either $uu' \in E(G)$ and $v = v'$, or $u = u'$ and $vv' \in E(H)$.

![Fig. 2. The complete graphs $K_3$, $K_4$, and their cartesian product $K_3 \square K_4$](image)

Lemma 3.1 Let $G$ and $H$ be graphs with orders $n_1$ and $n_2$, respectively, and sizes $m_1$ and $m_2$, respectively. If $u \in V(G)$ and $v \in V(H)$, then the following properties hold.

1. $\deg_{G \square H}(u, v) = \deg_G u + \deg_H v$,

2. $|E(G \square H)| = n_1 m_2 + n_2 m_1$,

3. $t_{G \square H}(u, v) = t_G(u) + t_H(v)$.

Proof: The proofs of (1) and (2) above follow directly from the definition of the cartesian product of graphs. As for (3), let $(u, v) \in V(G \square H)$ such that $(u', v')(u'', v'') \in E((N_{G \square H}(u, v)))$. Then vertices $(u, v)$, $(u', v')$, $(u'', v'') \in V(G \square H)$ are pairwise adjacent in $G \square H$.

Case 1: Suppose that $uw' \in E(G)$. This means that $v = v'$ is a must. Since $(u, v)$ and $(u'', v'')$ are adjacent in $G \square H$, we must have either $u = u''$ and $v v'' \in E(H)$, or $u u'' \in E(G)$ and $v = v''$. But the option $u = u''$ and $v v'' \in E(H)$, together with the observation that $(u', v') = (u', v')$ is adjacent to $(u'', v'') = (u, v'')$ in $G \square H$, leads to $u' = u$, which is impossible since we already have $uu' \in E(G)$. As a consequence, we only have $uu'' \in E(G)$ and $v = v''$. Since $v = v'$, we now have $v = v = v''$ and, hence, $uu'' \in E(G)$, so that $(u, v)$ is a triangle incident with vertex $u$ in $G$. Thus, in this case, a particular triangle in $G \square H$ incident with $(u, v) \in V(G \square H)$ clearly shows a unique triangle in $G$ incident with $u \in V(G)$.

Case 2: In this case we have $uw' \notin E(G)$ and hence we have $u = u'$ and $vv' \in E(H)$. Since $G \square H \cong H \square G$, we can apply the argument used in Case 1 above to a starting premise that $vw' \in E(H)$, producing a similar conclusion that in this case, a particular triangle in $G \square H$ incident with $(u, v) \in V(G \square H)$ would show a unique triangle in $H$ incident with $v \in V(H)$.  

65
The two cases together imply that every triangle in $G \square H$ incident with the vertex $(u, v) \in V(G \square H)$ is attributable either to a unique triangle in $G$ incident with $u \in V(G)$ or to a unique triangle in $H$ incident with $v \in V(H)$.

Conversely, every triangle in $G$ (or in $H$) incident with $u \in V(G)$ (or with $v \in V(H)$) produces a corresponding unique triangle in $G \square H$ incident with $(u, y)$ for every $y \in V(H)$ (or with $(x, v)$ for every $x \in V(G)$). Finally, we can now conclude that $t_{G \square H}(u, v) = t_G(u) + t_H(v)$.

**Theorem 3.2** If $u \in V(G)$ and $v \in V(H)$ such that $\deg_G u \geq 2$ and $\deg_H v \geq 2$, then the local clustering coefficient of $(u, v)$ in $G \square H$ is given by the formula

$$Cc_{(u,v)}(G \square H) = p(u,v) \cdot Cc_u(G) + q(u,v) \cdot Cc_v(H),$$

where $p(u,v) = (\deg_G u)(\deg_G u - 1)/[(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)]$ and $q(u,v) = (\deg_H v)(\deg_H v - 1)/[(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)]$.

**Proof:** Using Equation (1.1) and Lemma 3.1(3), we have

$$Cc_{(u,v)}(G \square H) = \frac{t_{G \square H}(u,v)}{\left(\sum_{x \in V(H)} \deg_G u + \deg_H v\right)}$$

$$= \frac{Cc_u(G)(\deg_G u)}{2} + \frac{Cc_v(H)(\deg_H v)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{Cc_u(G)\deg_G u(\deg_G u - 1) + Cc_v(H)\deg_H v(\deg_H v - 1)}{(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)}$$

$$= \frac{Cc_u(G)\deg_G u(\deg_G u - 1)}{(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)} + \frac{Cc_v(H)\deg_H v(\deg_H v - 1)}{(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)},$$

and the claimed formula follows.

The next result, which is for $Cc(G \square H)$, is a consequence of Theorem 3.2.

**Corollary 3.3** Let $G$ and $H$ be graphs of orders $n_1$ and $n_2$, respectively. Suppose $\delta(G) \geq 2$ and $\delta(H) \geq 2$. Then the global clustering coefficient of $G \square H$ is given by the expression

$$Cc(G \square H) = \frac{1}{n_1 n_2} \sum_{u \in V(G)} \sum_{v \in V(H)} p(u,v) \cdot Cc_u(G) + q(u,v) \cdot Cc_v(H),$$

where $p(u,v) = (\deg_G u)(\deg_G u - 1)/[(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)]$ and $q(u,v) = (\deg_H v)(\deg_H v - 1)/[(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)]$.

**Proof:** Using Equation (1.2) and Theorem 3.2, we obtain

$$Cc(G \square H) = \frac{1}{n_1 n_2} \sum_{(u,v) \in V(G \square H)} Cc_{(u,v)}(G \square H)$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_1 n_2} \sum_{u \in V(G)} \sum_{v \in V(H)} \left( \frac{Cc_u(G)\deg_G u(\deg_G u - 1)}{(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)} \right. + \left. \frac{Cc_v(H)\deg_H v(\deg_H v - 1)}{(\deg_G u + \deg_H v)(\deg_G u + \deg_H v - 1)} \right).$$

The claimed formula follows.
Theorem 3.4 Let $G$ and $H$ be graphs with orders $n_1$ and $n_2$, respectively. If $G$ and $H$ are regular graphs with regularities $d_G \geq 2$ and $d_H \geq 2$, respectively, then

$$Cc(G \square H) = p \cdot Cc(G) + q \cdot Cc(H),$$

where $p = d_G(d_G - 1)/[(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)]$ and $q = d_H(d_H - 1)/[(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)]$.

**Proof:** Using Equation (1.2), Corollary 3.3, and the fact that $G \square H$ is also a regular graph with regularity $d_{G\square H} = d_G + d_H$ from Lemma 3.1(1), we have

$$Cc(G \square H) = \frac{1}{n_1n_2} \sum_{u \in V(G)} \sum_{v \in V(H)} \left( \frac{Cc_u(G)d_G - 1}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} + \frac{Cc_v(H)d_H - 1}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{n_1n_2} \left( \frac{n_2d_G(d_G - 1)}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} \sum_{u \in V(G)} Cc_u(G) \right)$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad + \left( \frac{n_1d_H(d_H - 1)}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} \sum_{v \in V(H)} Cc_v(H) \right)$$

$$= \frac{d_G(d_G - 1)}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} \cdot Cc(G) + \frac{d_H(d_H - 1)}{(d_G + d_H)(d_G + d_H - 1)} \cdot Cc(H),$$

and the claimed formula holds. \hfill \square

Theorem 3.5 For the cartesian product $K_m \square K_n$, where $m, n \geq 3$,

$$Cc(K_m \square K_n) = \frac{m^2 - 3m + n^2 - 3n + 4}{m^2 - 5m + 2mn + n^2 - 5n + 6}.$$

**Proof:** Given that $K_m$ is $(m - 1)$-regular, $K_n$ is $(n - 1)$-regular, and $Cc(K_m) = Cc(K_n) = 1$, Theorem 3.4 asserts that

$$Cc(K_m \square K_n) = \frac{(m - 1)(m - 2)}{(m + n - 2)(m + n - 3)} + \frac{(n - 1)(n - 2)}{(m + n - 2)(m + n - 3)}$$

$$= \frac{(m - 1)(m - 1) + (n - 1)(n - 2)}{(m + n - 2)(m + n - 3)}$$

$$= \frac{m^2 - 3m + n^2 - 3n + 4}{m^2 - 5m + 2mn + n^2 - 5n + 6},$$

which completes the proof. \hfill \square

The next result gives an asymptotic value to $Cc(K_m \square K_m)$ as $m \to \infty$.

Corollary 3.6 For the cartesian product $K_m \square K_m$, $Cc(K_m \square K_m) \to \frac{1}{2}$ as $m \to \infty$.

**Proof:** Using Corollary 3.5, we have

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} Cc(K_m \square K_m) = \lim_{m \to \infty} \frac{2m^2 - 6m + 4}{4m^2 - 10m + 6} = \lim_{m \to \infty} \frac{2 - \frac{6}{m} + \frac{4}{m^2}}{4 - \frac{10}{m} + \frac{6}{m^2}} = \frac{1}{2}. \hfill \square$$
4 Conclusion

In this paper we were able to generate some useful formulas for the global clustering coefficient of the tensor product $K_m \otimes K_n$ and the cartesian product $K_m \sqcap K_n$. It was interesting to see that as $m$ increases without bound, $Cc(K_m \otimes K_m) \to 1$ while $Cc(K_m \sqcap K_m) \to 1/2$. There might be other parameterized graphs resulting from other graph binary operations and even some unary operations that may exhibit similar interesting properties. Their determination can be a subject of a separate investigation.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to acknowledge the valuable comments and inputs made by the anonymous referees. In addition, the first author acknowledges with gratitude the scholarship support granted to him by the Department of Science and Technology, Philippines.

Competing Interests

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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