

## Fourth Order Connectivity Index of Hexagonal Chains

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**Summary:** The higher order connectivity index is a graph invariant defined as  ${}^h\chi(G) = \sum_{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{h+1}} (d_{u_1} d_{u_2} \dots d_{u_{h+1}})^{-1/2}$ , where the summation is taken over all possible paths of length  $h$ , and  $d_{u_i}$  denotes the degree of the vertex  $u_i$  of the graph  $G$ . In this paper, we stick to researching the fourth order connected index of hexagonal chains and give a calculation formula and we characterize the extremal graphs with the extremal fourth-order Randić index.

Keywords: Connectivity Index; Hexagonal chain; Extreme situation; Randić index.

### Introduction

A topological index of molecules is a numeric quantity. It is structure invariant. The first reported use of a topological index in chemistry was studied by Wiener [1] in the study of paraffin boiling points. In chemical language, the Wiener index is equal to the sum of all shortest Carbon-Carbon bond paths in molecule. In graph theoretical language, it is equal to the number of all shortest distances in a graph. Since then, in order to model various molecular properties, many topological index have been designed [2].

In 1975 M. Randić [3] introduced Randić index (also called connectivity index) and defined as:

$\chi(G) = \sum_{uv \in E(G)} (d_u d_v)^{-1/2}$ , where  $d_u$  denotes the degree of the vertex  $u$  and  $E(G)$  the set of edges of graph  $G$ . Connectivity index is one of the most important topological indices in Chemical Graph Theory. There is a good correlation between it and several physicochemical properties of alkanes: boiling points, surface areas, energy levels, etc. Connectivity index has been extensively investigated and applied in mathematics and chemistry. In [4], Rada, Araujo and Gutman first studied the Randić index of

benzenoid systems and phenylenes. After that, in [5] Kier and Hall considered the higher order connectivity indices of a general graph  $G$  as:

$${}^h\chi(G) = \sum_{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{h+1}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_{u_1} d_{u_2} \dots d_{u_{h+1}}}}$$

is taken over all possible paths of length  $h$  of graph  $G$  and approved that higher order connectivity indices have widely practice meaning in physics and chemistry. In [6], Rada gave an expression of the second-order Randić index of benzenoid systems. Deng and Zhang researched the second order Randić index of phenylenes in [7]. After that in [8], authors gave a calculation formula of the third-order Randić index of phenylenes. In this paper, we study the fourth-order connected index of hexagonal chains and find their calculation formula and characterize the extremal graphs with the extremal fourth-order Randić index.

### Hexagonal chain

Hexagonal chain is a hexagonal system in which each hexagon is only adjacent to at most two hexagons. We write a hexagonal chain with  $n(n > 2)$  hexagons  $H_n$ . It is easy to know any hexagonal

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chain  $H_{n+1}$  with  $n+1$  ( $n > 1$ ) hexagons can be got by sticking a hexagon to hexagonal chain  $H_n$ , which implies any hexagonal chain can be got through the recursive structure. There are three ways to stick a hexagonal to a hexagonal chain  $H_n$ : (1) if  $h_{n+1}$  in straight lines  $l$ , is called  $\alpha$  type adhesion; (2) if  $h_{n+1}$  in straight lines  $l$  left, is called the  $\beta$  type adhesion; (3) if  $h_{n+1}$  on the right side of the linear  $l$ , called  $\gamma$  type adhesion. Here  $l$  refers to the straight linear connecting the center of  $h_{n-1}$  and of  $h_n$ . Any a hexagonal chain  $H_n$  ( $n > 2$ ) can be got, through bonding some hexagons step by step into the  $H_2$ , where each step is a type  $\theta$ , here  $\theta = \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$ . Let  $H_{n+2}$  is a hexagonal chain with  $n+2$  hexagons, which is got by binder a sequence of hexagons with type  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$  to  $H_2$ . We call the  $H(\alpha, \alpha, L, \alpha)$  linear chain  $L(n+2)$ , and the  $H(\beta, \gamma, \beta, \gamma, L)$  or  $H(\gamma, \beta, \gamma, \beta, L)$  zig-zag chain  $Z(n+2)$ . Some examples of hexagonal chain

saw as Fig. 1.

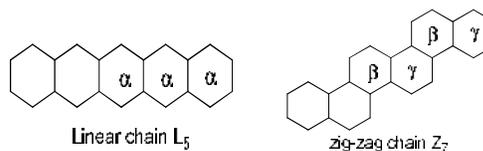


Fig. 1: Hexagonal Chain.

By  $H_n$  bond three hexagons getting  $H_{n+3}$  has the following twelve cases:

Case 1.  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$  or  $= \beta$  or and  $\theta_n = \theta_{n+1} = \alpha$ , see Fig. 2 (1), (15) and (19). Among these roads with long size 4, bcdeuw, cdewx, cdeEz, cCDEz, dewxy, deEzy, ewxyz, eEzyx, wedcC, weEDC, weEzy, wxyzE, xweED, xweEz, xyzED, yxweE, yzEDC, zEDCB is new. Except roads abcde, bedee, bcCDE, cdeED, cCDEe, dcCDE, deEDC, edcCB, edcCD, eEDCB, EedcC and EDCBA, other roads with long size 4 in  $H_{n+3}$  is the same as in  $H_{n+2}$ . Write  $W_1(P)$  and  $W_2(P)$  as the weight,  $(d_{v_1} d_{v_2} d_{v_3} d_{v_4} d_{v_5})^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , of road  $P = v_1 v_2 v_3 v_4 v_5$  in  $H_{n+2}$  and  $H_{n+3}$  respectively. We calculate the weight of these roads as following Table-1 and Table-2.

Table-1: The weight of new roads with long 4 in  $H_{n+3}$ .

bcdeuw	cdewx	cdeEz	cCDEz	dewxy	deEzy	ewxyz	eEzyx	wedcC
$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$
weEDC	weEzy	wxyzE	xweED	xweEz	xyzED	yxweE	yzEDC	zEDCB
$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$

The Fourth Order Connectivity Index of Hexagonal Chain

Let  $H_{n+3} = H(\theta_1, \theta_2, L, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1})$  be one of following hexagonal chains:

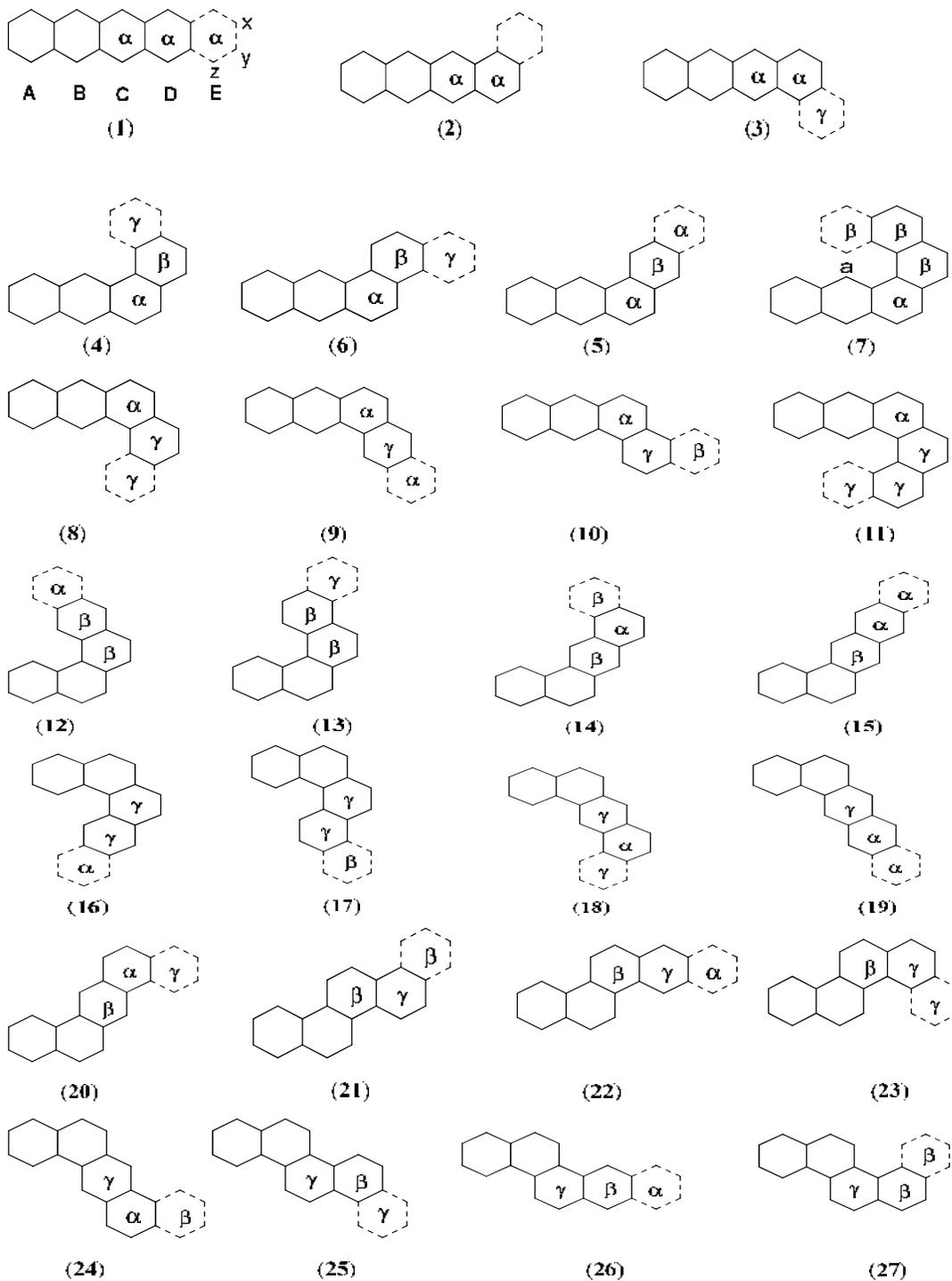


Fig. 2: Hexagonal Chain  $H_{n+3}$ .

Table-2: The weight of roads with long 4 in  $H_{n+2}$  and  $H_{n+3}$ .

	abcde	bcdE	bcDE	cdeED	cDEe	dcCDE
$w_1$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$
$w_2$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{9\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$
	deEDC	edcCB	edcCD	eEDCB	EedcC	EDCBA
$w_1$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}$
$w_2$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{9\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{6\sqrt{3}}$

By the definition of the fourth order connectivity index and the values in Table-1 and Table-2, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 2.  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \beta$  or  $\theta_{n+1} = \gamma$ , see Fig. 2 (2) and (3). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{23}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 3.  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_n = \theta_{n+1} = \beta$  or  $\theta_n = \theta_{n+1} = \gamma$ , see figure 2 (4), (8). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{55}{108}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 4.  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_n = \beta$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_n = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \beta$ ,  $\theta_n = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_n = \beta$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$ , see Fig. 2 (5), (9), (22) and (26). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 5.  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_n = \beta$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \gamma$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \alpha$ ,

$\theta_n = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \beta$ , see Fig. 2 (6) and (10). Similar to case 1,

$$\text{we have: } {}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 6.  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \theta_{n+1} = \beta$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \theta_{n+1} = \gamma$ , see Fig. 2 (7) and (11). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \begin{cases} \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{36}\sqrt{3} & \text{if degree}(a) = 2, \\ \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{61}{108}\sqrt{3} & \text{if degree}(a) = 3 \end{cases}$$

Case 7.  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \beta$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \alpha$ , see Fig. 2 (12) and (16). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{22}{27}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 8.  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \beta$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \gamma$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \theta_n = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \beta$ , see Fig. 2 (13) and (17). Similar to case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 9.  $\theta_{n-1} = \beta$ ,  $\theta_n = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \beta$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_n = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \gamma$ , see Fig. 2 (14) and (18). Similar as case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{29}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 10.  $\theta_{n-1} = \beta$ ,  $\theta_n = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \gamma$  or  $\theta_{n-1} = \gamma$ ,  $\theta_n = \alpha$ ,  $\theta_{n+1} = \beta$ , see Fig. 2 (20) and (24). Similar as case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{7}{12}\sqrt{2} + \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 11.  $\theta_{n-1}=\beta, \theta_n=\gamma, \theta_{n+1}=\beta$  or  $\theta_{n-1}=\gamma, \theta_n=\beta, \theta_{n+1}=\gamma$ , see Fig. 2 (21) and (25). Similar as case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}$$

Case 12.  $\theta_{n-1}=\beta, \theta_n=\gamma, \theta_{n+1}=\gamma$  or  $\theta_{n-1}=\gamma, \theta_n=\beta, \theta_{n+1}=\beta$ , see Fig. 2 (23) and (27). Similar as case 1, we have:

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) = {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{77}{108}\sqrt{3}$$

Sum up the above 12 cases, we can get the following theorem:

*Theorem 1* Let  $H_{n+2}=H(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n)$  and  $H_{n+3}=H(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1})$ , then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{5}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \alpha, \alpha), (\beta, \alpha, \alpha) \text{ or } (\gamma, \alpha, \alpha); \\ \frac{23}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \alpha, \beta) \text{ or } (\alpha, \alpha, \gamma); \\ \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{55}{108}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \beta, \beta) \text{ or } (\alpha, \gamma, \gamma); \\ \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \beta, \alpha), (\alpha, \gamma, \alpha), (\beta, \gamma, \alpha) \text{ or } (\gamma, \beta, \alpha); \\ \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \text{ or } (\alpha, \gamma, \beta); \\ \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{36}\sqrt{3} \text{ or } \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{61}{108}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \beta, \beta) \text{ or } (\gamma, \gamma, \gamma); \\ \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{22}{27}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \beta, \alpha) \text{ or } (\gamma, \gamma, \alpha); \\ \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \beta, \gamma) \text{ or } (\gamma, \gamma, \beta); \\ \frac{7}{12}\sqrt{2} + \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \alpha, \gamma) \text{ or } (\gamma, \alpha, \beta); \\ \frac{29}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \alpha, \beta) \text{ or } (\gamma, \alpha, \gamma); \\ \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \gamma, \beta) \text{ or } (\gamma, \beta, \gamma); \\ \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{77}{108}\sqrt{3}, \quad \text{if } (\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\beta, \gamma, \gamma) \text{ or } (\gamma, \beta, \beta); \end{array} \right.$$

*The Extremal Graphs of Hexagonal Chain*

By the recursive formula of the fourth order connectivity index of hexagonal chain, we deduce the extreme values of fourth order connectivity index, and depict their extremal graphs.

*Theorem 2* Let  $H_{n+3}=H(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1})$  be a hexagonal chain with  $n+3 (n \geq 2)$  hexagons, then the following results hold:

(1)  ${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \geq \frac{5n+29}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7n+12}{9}\sqrt{3}$ . If

and only if  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) = (\alpha, \alpha, \dots, \alpha)$ , the equality holds. That is,  $H_{n+3}$  is a linear chain.(2)

${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \leq \frac{10n+41}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{18n+35}{108}\sqrt{3}$ , If and only if  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) = (\beta, \gamma, \beta, \gamma, \dots)$  or  $(\gamma, \beta, \gamma, \beta, \dots)$ , the equality holds. That is,  $H_{n+3}$  is a Zig-Zag chain

$Z_{n+3}$ .

*Proof:* By theorem 1 and

$${}^4\chi(H(\alpha, \alpha, \alpha)) = \frac{13}{6}\sqrt{2} + \frac{26}{9}\sqrt{3}, \quad {}^4\chi(H(\beta, \gamma, \beta)) = {}^4\chi(H(\gamma, \beta, \gamma)) = \frac{16}{6}\sqrt{2} + \frac{71}{27}\sqrt{3},$$

we can get

$${}^4\chi(L_{n+3}) = \frac{5(n-2)+39}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7(n-2)+26}{9}\sqrt{3} = \frac{5n+29}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7n+12}{9}\sqrt{3},$$

$${}^4\chi(Z_{n+3}) = \frac{10(n-2)+51}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{18(n-2)+71}{27}\sqrt{3} = \frac{10n+41}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{18n+35}{108}\sqrt{3}$$

Next, we prove our theorem by inductive method. By a series of direct calculation, we can get:

$${}^4\chi(H_2) = \sqrt{2} + \frac{5}{6}\sqrt{3} \quad {}^4\chi(H_3) = \begin{cases} {}^4\chi(H(\alpha)) = \frac{29}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{3}, \\ {}^4\chi(H(\beta)) = {}^4\chi(H(\gamma)) = \frac{31}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{3}. \end{cases}$$

$${}^4\chi(H_4) = \begin{cases} {}^4\chi(H(\alpha, \alpha)) = \frac{17}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{19}{9}\sqrt{3} \\ {}^4\chi(H(\alpha, \beta)) = {}^4\chi(H(\alpha, \gamma)) = \frac{9}{4}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{9}\sqrt{3} \\ {}^4\chi(H(\beta, \alpha)) = {}^4\chi(H(\gamma, \alpha)) = \frac{9}{4}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{9}\sqrt{3} \\ {}^4\chi(H(\beta, \beta)) = {}^4\chi(H(\gamma, \gamma)) = \frac{41}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{211}{108}\sqrt{3} \\ {}^4\chi(H(\beta, \gamma)) = {}^4\chi(H(\gamma, \beta)) = \frac{41}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{53}{27}\sqrt{3} \end{cases}$$

From the above we can see, the theorem holds for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{5}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3} &< \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3} < \frac{19}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{22}{27}\sqrt{3} < \frac{3}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{36}\sqrt{3} < \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{61}{108}\sqrt{3} < \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{17}{27}\sqrt{3} \\ &< \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{3} < \frac{7}{12}\sqrt{2} + \frac{11}{18}\sqrt{3} < \frac{13}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{55}{108}\sqrt{3} < \frac{23}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3} < \frac{29}{36}\sqrt{2} + \frac{4}{9}\sqrt{3} < \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

(1) Now we assume the case (1) of the theorem holds for  $n$ , that is  ${}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) \geq {}^4\chi(L_{n+2})$

Let  $H_{n+3} = H(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1})$  be a hexagonal chain with  $n+3$  hexagons. By Theorem 1, we can get

$${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \geq {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{18}\sqrt{2} + \frac{7}{9}\sqrt{3}. \text{ The equation}$$

hold iff  $(\theta_{n-1}, \theta_n, \theta_{n+1}) = (\alpha, \alpha, \alpha)$ . By the

inductive hypothesis,  ${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \geq {}^4\chi(L_{n+3})$ . The

equation hold if and only if  $H_{n+3}$  is  $L_{n+3}$ .

Therefore the theorem (1) holds.

(2) Now we assume the case (2) of the

theorem holds for  $n$ , that is  ${}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) \leq {}^4\chi(Z_{n+2})$

By Theorem 1,  ${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \leq {}^4\chi(H_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}$  .

Therefore, by the inductive hypothesis,

${}^4\chi(H_{n+3}) \leq {}^4\chi(Z_{n+2}) + \frac{5}{9}\sqrt{2} + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}$  if and only if  $H_{n+3}$

is  $Z_{n+3}$ , the equation holds. Therefore, the

theorem (2) holds.

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