

Finite vertex-quasiprimitive edge-transitive metacirculants

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(Depending on joint works with C. H. Li)

Introduction

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- The "metacirculants" was initiated by Alspach and Parsons (1982), which provides a rich source of many interesting families of graphs. In particular, the following is a long-standing open problem in algebraic graph theory.

Problem A. Characterise edge-transitive metacirculants.

Some known results: **Special classes of metacirculants**

[1] B. Alspach, M. Conder, D. Marusic and M. Y. Xu, A classification of 2-arc-transitive circulants, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **5** (1996), no. 2, 83-86.

[2] I. Kovacs, Classifying arc-transitive circulants, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **20** (2004), 353-358.

[3] C. H. Li, Permutation groups with a cyclic regular subgroup and arc transitive circulants, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **21** (2005), 131-136.

Some known results (Continue)

- [4] S. F. Du, A. Malnič and D. Marušič, Classification of 2-arc-transitive dihedrants, *J. Combin. Theory Ser. B* **98** (2008), 1349-1372.
- [5] D. Marušič, On 2-arc-transitivity of Cayley graphs, *J. Combin. Theory Ser. B* **87** (2003), 162-196, and **96** (2006), 761-764.
- [6] C. H. Li and H. Sims, On half-transitive metacirculant graphs of prime-power order, *J. Combin. Theory Ser. B* **81** (2001), 45-57.
- [7] M. Y. Xu, Half-transitive graphs of prime-cube order, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **1** (1992), 275-282.

Some known results (Continue)

- [8] D. Marušič and P. Šparl, On quartic half-arc-transitive metacirculants, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **28** (2008), 365-395.
- [9] Chuixiang Zhou and Yan-Quan Feng, An infinite family of tetravalent half-arc-transitive graphs, *Discrete Math.* **306** (2006), 2205-2211.
- [10] N. D. Tan, Cubic (m, n) -metacirculant graphs which are not Cayley graphs. *Discrete Math.* **154** (1996), no. 1-3, 237-244.

Classification

Theorem 1. Let Γ be a connected vertex-quasiprimitive edge-transitive metacirculants on V . Then one of the following holds:

- (a) $\Gamma = K_n, K_n \times K_n$, or $K_n \square K_n$.
- (b) $\Gamma = \text{line}(K_p)$ and the complement.
- (c) $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(T, S)$, where $T = \text{PSL}(2, p)$ and $S = \{g^T, (g^{-1})^T\}$ with $g \in T$, and G is of diagonal type.
- (d) $G = \text{PSL}(2, p)$, and Γ is described in Lemma 7-9.
- (e) Four exceptional small groups:
 - $G = \text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(2, 16)$, and $G_v = A_5 \cdot \mathbb{Z}_4$, and Γ is arc-transitive and of valency 12, 15, or 40.
 - $G = \text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(3, 4)$, $G_v = \text{A}\Gamma\text{L}(1, 2^4)$, $|V| = 126$, and Γ is homomorphic to K_{21} .
 - $G = \text{PSL}(5, 2)$, and Γ is the Grassmann graph $G_2(5, 2)$ or its complement.
 - $G = \text{PSU}(4, 2)$ or $\text{PSU}(4, 2).2$, and Γ is the Schläfli graph or its complement.
- (f) $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_p^d, S)$ is a normal Cayley graph, where $p^d = p, p^2, 3^4, 2^4, 2^6$ or 2^8 .

Observations

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Problem B. (Open problem of Wielandt 1949)

Classifying quasiprimitive permutation groups containing a transitive metacyclic subgroup.

Research strategy

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- Step 2. Classifying generalized orbital graphs of groups appeared in above step 1.

Solution of Wielandt's Problem

Theorem 2 [Li + Pan, 2009]. Let G be a finite quasiprimitive permutation group on Ω , and let R be a transitive metacyclic subgroup of G . Then one of the following holds:

- (a) G is an almost simple group, and either $(G, G_\omega) = (A_n, A_{n-1})$ or (S_n, S_{n-1}) , or $(G, R, G_\omega) = (G, A, B)$ such that $R = A$ and $G_\omega = B$ as in Table I;
- (b) $G = (\text{PSL}(2, p) \times \text{PSL}(2, p)).O$ where $O \leq \mathbb{Z}_2^2$, R is regular, and either
 - $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}} : \mathbb{Z}_{p-1} \cong (\mathbb{Z}_p : \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}) \times D_{p+1}$, or
 - $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, $O \geq \mathbb{Z}_2$, and $R \cong \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}} : \mathbb{Z}_{p-1} \cong (\mathbb{Z}_p : \mathbb{Z}_{p-1}) \times \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p+1}{2}}$;
- (c) G is primitive of product action type of degree n^2 with socle T^2 , and $R = \mathbb{Z}_n^2$ or $\mathbb{Z}_m^2 : \mathbb{Z}_4$ with $m = \frac{n}{2}$ odd, and $T = A_n$, or $\text{PSL}(d, q)$ with $n = \frac{q^d - 1}{q - 1}$, or $(T, n) = (\text{PSL}(2, 11), 11)$, $(M_{11}, 11)$ or $(M_{23}, 23)$.
- (d) G is affine, as described in Theorem HA.

TABLE I

row	G	A	B	conditions
1	S_p $A_p.o$	$p:(p-1)$ $p:\frac{p-1}{2}$	$S_{p-2}, S_{p-2} \times S_2$ $S_{p-2} \times o$	$o \leq 2$
2	$PSL(d, q).o$ $PSL(d, q).o.2$	$G(q^d).o_1$ $G(q^d).o_1.2$	$P_1.o_2$, parabolic $P_1.o_2$	where $q = p^f$, and $o_1 o_2 \cong o \leq f.(d, q - 1)$
3	$PGL(2, p)$ $PSL(2, p).o$	$p:(p-1)$ $p:\frac{p-1}{2}.o_1$	$\mathbb{Z}_{p+1}, D_{2(p+1)}$ $D_{(p+1)o}$	$o_1 \leq o \leq 2, p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$
4	$PSL(2, 11).o$	$11:5.o_1$	$A_4.o_2$	$o_1 o_2 = o \leq 2$
5	$PSL(2, 11)$	$11, 11:5$	A_5	
6	$PSL(2, 29)$	$29:7$	A_5	
7	$PSL(2, p)$ $PGL(2, p)$	$p:\frac{p-1}{2}$ $p:(p-1)$	A_5 A_5	$p = 11, 19, 29, 59$
8	$PSL(2, 23)$ $PGL(2, 23)$	$23:11$ $23:22$	S_4 S_4	

(to be continued)

TABLE I (Continue)

9	$\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(2, 16)$	17:8	$\text{PSL}(2, 4).4$	
10	$\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(3, 4)$	$(7:3) \times \text{S}_3$	$2^4:15:4$	
11	$\text{PSL}(5, 2).o$	$31:(5 \times o)$	$2^6:(\text{S}_3 \times \text{PSL}(3, 2))$	$o \leq 2$
12	$\text{PSU}(3, 8).3^2.o$	$(3 \times 19:9).o_1$	$(2^{3+6}:63:3).o_2$	$o_1 o_2 = o \leq 2$
13	$\text{PSU}(4, 2).o$	$9:3.o_1$	$2^4:\text{A}_5.o$	$o_1 \leq 2o \leq 4$
14	M_{11}	11, 11:5	$\text{M}_{10}, \text{M}_9.2$	
15	M_{12}	6×2	M_{11}	
	$\text{M}_{12}.2$	D_{24}	M_{11}	
16	$\text{M}_{22}.2$	D_{22}	$\text{PSL}(3, 4).2$	
17	M_{23}	23, 23:11	$\text{M}_{22}, \text{M}_{21}.2, 2^4.\text{A}_7$	
18	M_{24}	D_{24}	M_{23}	

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- Determining metacyclic B-groups has received much attention.
- The next theorem give a classification of metacyclic B-group.

Classification of metacyclic B-groups

Theorem 3 [Li + Pan, 2009]. If a metacyclic group R is not a B-group, then R is isomorphic to one of the following groups, where p is a prime:

- (a) $\mathbb{Z}_p:\mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}, \mathbb{Z}_p:\mathbb{Z}_{p-1}, \mathbb{Z}_{29}:\mathbb{Z}_7, \mathbb{Z}_{57}:\mathbb{Z}_9;$
- (b) $\mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}}:\mathbb{Z}_{p-1} \cong (\mathbb{Z}_p:\mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}) \times D_{p+1}$, where $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$;
 $\mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}}:\mathbb{Z}_{p-1} \cong \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p+1}{2}} \times (\mathbb{Z}_p:\mathbb{Z}_{p-1})$, where $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$;
- (c) $\mathbb{Z}_n^2, \mathbb{Z}_m^2:\mathbb{Z}_4$ with m odd;
- (d) $R = \mathbb{Z}_p$ or \mathbb{Z}_p^2 , or $\mathbb{Z}_9:\mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_9:\mathbb{Z}_9$, or $\mathbb{Z}_8.\mathbb{Z}_2, \mathbb{Z}_4.\mathbb{Z}_4, \mathbb{Z}_8:\mathbb{Z}_8$ or $\mathbb{Z}_{16}:\mathbb{Z}_{16}$.

Coset graph

- **Definition.** Let G be a group, H a subgroup, and S a subset of G . The coset graph $\text{cos}(G, H, S)$ is defined with the vertex set $[G : H]$, and Hx is adjacent to Hy iff $yx^{-1} \in S$.

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- **Lemma 1.** (1) $\Gamma = \text{cos}(G, H, HSH)$ is connected iff $\langle H, S \rangle = G$;
(2) Γ is G -edge-transitive iff $\Gamma = \text{cos}(G, G_\alpha, G_\alpha\{g, g^{-1}\}G_\alpha)$ for some $g \in G$, and $\text{val}(\Gamma) = |G_\alpha : G_\alpha \cap G_\alpha^g|$ or $2|G_\alpha : G_\alpha \cap G_\alpha^g|$.

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- **Lemma 2.** For a coset graph $\Gamma = \text{Cos}(G, H, H\{g, g^{-1}\}H)$, if all subgroups of H which are isomorphic to $H \cap H^g$ are conjugate in H , then there exists $f \in \mathbf{N}_G(H \cap H^g)$ such that $H\{g, g^{-1}\}H = H\{f, f^{-1}\}H$.

Proof of Theorem 1: Divided into four cases

- Let Γ be G -vertex-quasiprimitive edge-transitive metacirculants on V , and let $R \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ be transitive on V . By Theorem 2, $G \leq \text{Sym}(V)$ is of type diagonal, product action, almost simple or affine.

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- We thus divide naturally our discussion into four cases.
 - Case 1. G is of diagonal type (including simple diagonal or holomorph simple).
 - Case 2. G is of product action type.
 - Case 3. G is almost simple.
 - Case 4. G is affine.

Case 1. G is of diagonal type

Lemma 3. Let G be of diagonal type. Then $\text{soc}(G) = T^2$ with $T = \text{PSL}(2, p)$, and $R = \mathbb{Z}_{p^{\frac{p+1}{2}}} : \mathbb{Z}_{p-1}$ is regular on V , and the following statements hold:

- (a) $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(T, S)$, where S consists of a full conjugate class of elements g, g^{-1} of T ;
- (b) $\text{Aut}\Gamma = (T \times T).2^2$, and Γ is arc transitive;
- (c) if Γ is G -locally primitive, then $g = g^{-1}$ is an involution, and Γ has valency $\frac{1}{2}p(p-1)$ or $\frac{1}{2}p(p+1)$.

Case 2. G is of product action type

Lemma 4. Let G be primitive of product action type. Then

- (a) $\text{soc}(G) = T^2$, where $T = A_n$, $\text{PSL}(d, q)$ with $n = \frac{q^d - 1}{q - 1}$, $\text{PSL}(2, 11)$ with $n = 11$, M_{11} with $n = 11$, or M_{23} with $n = 23$.
- (b) $\Gamma \cong K_n \square K_n$ or $K_n \times K_n$, where $n \geq 5$.
- (c) If Γ is G -locally primitive, then $\Gamma = K_n \times K_n$, and $T \neq \text{PSL}(d, q)$ with $d \geq 3$.

Case 3. G is affine

Lemma 5. Let G be affine, with socle \mathbb{Z}_p^d . Then one of the following holds:

- (a) G is 2-transitive, and $\Gamma = K_{p^d}$;
- (b) $d = 2e$, $G = H \wr S_2$, where H is 2-transitive of degree p^e , and $\Gamma = K_{p^e} \square K_{p^e}$ or $K_{p^e} \times K_{p^e}$;
- (c) Γ is a normal Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}_p^d .

Case 4. G is almost simple

We finally treat the almost simple case. Then (G, R) lies in TABLE 1 above. By determining generalized orbitals of all candidates there one by one, we finish the proof of Theorem 1 by following 6 lemmas.

Case 4. G is almost simple: (G is not 2-dimensional linear group)

Lemma 6. Suppose that $T = \text{soc}(G)$ is not a 2-dimensional linear group. Then the following statements hold:

(1) $\Gamma = \text{line}(K_p)$ or $\overline{\text{line}}(K_p)$ with p prime, and one of the following holds:

(a) $T = A_p$ or S_p , and $T_v = S_{p-2}$ or $S_{p-2} \times S_2$, respectively;

(b) $p = 11$, $T = M_{11}$, and $T_v = M_9.2$;

(c) $p = 23$, $T = M_{23}$, and $T_v = M_{21}.2$ or $2^4:A_7$.

(2) $G = \text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(3, 4)$, Γ is homomorphic to K_{21} ; moreover, Γ is not locally primitive.

(3) $G = \text{PSL}(5, 2)$, and Γ is the Grassmann graph $G_5(2)$ or the complement, of which only the former is locally primitive.

(4) $T = \text{PSU}(4, 2)$ or $\text{PSU}(4, 2).2$, and Γ is the Schläfli graph or its complement, of which only the former is locally primitive.

Case 4. G is almost simple: $\text{soc}(G) = \text{PSL}(2, p)$

Lemma 7. Let $\text{soc}(G) = \text{PSL}(2, p)$, $R = \mathbb{Z}_p : \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}$, and $G_v \triangleright \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{p+1}{2}}$. Then one of the following holds:

- (a) $G = \text{PGL}(2, p)$, $G_v = \mathbb{Z}_{p+1}$, Γ is of valency $p + 1$ or $2(p + 1)$.
- (b) $G = \text{PGL}(2, p)$, $G_v = D_{2(p+1)}$, Γ is of valency $\frac{p+1}{2}$, unique; or Γ is of valency $p + 1$, one of $\frac{p-1}{2}$.

Moreover, if Γ is locally primitive, then $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, and Γ is of prime valency $\frac{p+1}{2}$.

Case 4. G is almost simple: $(G, G_v) = (\text{PSL}(2, 11), A_4)$

Lemma 8. Let $T = \text{PSL}(2, 11)$, and $T_v = A_4$. Then

- (a) Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive and of valency 4, or
- (b) G -arc transitive and of valency 6, or 12, or
- (c) G -half-transitive of valency 12 or 24.

Moreover, if Γ is locally primitive, then Γ is 2-arc transitive of valency 4.

Case 4. G is almost simple: $(G, G_v) = (\text{PSL}(2, p), A_5)$ with

$$p = 15, 29, 59$$

Lemma 9. Let $G = \text{PSL}(2, p)$, where $p = 19, 29$ or 59 , and $G_v = A_5$. Then one of the following holds:

- (a) $G = \text{PSL}(2, 19)$, and either Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive of valency 6, or Γ is G -arc transitive of valency 20 or 30.
- (b) $G = \text{PSL}(2, 29)$, and either Γ is G -arc transitive of valency 12 or 30, or Γ is G -half transitive of valency 40.
- (c) $G = \text{PSL}(2, 59)$, and Γ has valency 6, 10, 12, 20, 24, 30 or 40.

Moreover, if Γ is locally primitive, then $G = \text{PSL}(2, 19)$ or $\text{PSL}(2, 59)$, and Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive of valency 6.

Case 4. G is almost simple: $(G, G_v) = (\text{PSL}(2, 23), S_4)$

Lemma 10. For $G = \text{PSL}(2, 23)$ and $G_v = S_4$, the order $|V| = 253$, then

- (a) Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive of valency 4, or
- (b) Γ is G -arc transitive of valency 6 or 8, or
- (c) Γ is G -half transitive of valency 12 or 16.

If Γ is G -locally primitive, then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive of valency 4.

Case 4. G is almost simple: $(G, G_v) = (\text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(2, 16), (A_5 \times 2).2)$

Lemma 11. For $G = \text{P}\Gamma\text{L}(2, 16)$ and $G_v = (A_5 \times 2).2$, then Γ is arc-transitive and of valency 12, 15 or 40, $\text{Aut}\Gamma = G$, and Γ is not locally primitive.

Thank You!