

# Cayley graphs on abelian groups

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An **automorphism** of  $\Gamma$  is a permutation of  $\mathcal{V}$  which preserves the the relation  $\mathcal{A}$ .

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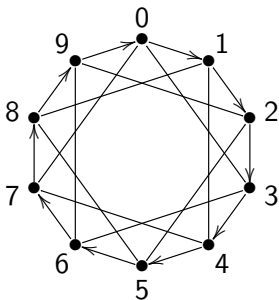
The **Cayley digraph** on  $G$  with connection set  $S$ , denoted  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ , is the digraph with vertex-set  $G$  and with  $(g, h)$  being an arc if and only if  $gh^{-1} \in S$ .

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$\text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_{10}, \{1, 3, 7\})$ :





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Proof : Let  $x \in G$  and let  $\sigma_x : G \rightarrow G$ ,  $\sigma_x(g) = gx$ . Then  $gh^{-1} = gxx^{-1}h^{-1} = \sigma_x(g)\sigma_x(h)^{-1}$ , hence  $(g, h)$  is an arc of  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  if and only if  $(\sigma_x(g), \sigma_x(h))$  is. This shows that  $\sigma_x$  is an automorphism of  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ . Clearly  $\sigma_x\sigma_y = \sigma_{yx}$  hence  $\{\sigma_x \mid x \in G\}$  is a group of automorphisms of  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ .

## Digraphical regular representation

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*Let  $G$  be a group of order  $n$ . The proportion of subsets  $S$  of  $G$  such that  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is a DRR goes to 1 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

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Babai and Godsil proved the conjecture for nilpotent groups of odd order.

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Let  $\text{Cay}(A, S)$  be a Cayley graph on  $A$ . Then  $\iota$  is an automorphism of  $\text{Cay}(A, S)$ : since  $S$  is inverse-closed,  $gh^{-1} \in S$  if and only if  $\iota(gh^{-1}) \in S$  but  $\iota(gh^{-1}) = \iota(g)\iota(h)^{-1}$ .

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Conclusion : if  $A$  is an abelian group and  $A \not\cong (\mathbb{Z}_2)^n$ , then no Cayley graph on  $A$  is a GRR.

## Corresponding conjectures

Conjecture (Babai, Godsil, Imrich, Lóvasz, 1982)

*Let  $G$  be a group of order  $n$  which is neither generalized dicyclic nor abelian. The proportion of inverse-closed subsets  $S$  of  $G$  such that  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is a GRR goes to 1 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

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This is now a **theorem**. (Dobson, Spiga, V.) We also proved the digraph conjecture for abelian groups.

## An important idea

### Lemma

*Let  $A$  be a group of order  $n$ . The number of subsets of  $A$  which are fixed setwise by some element of  $\text{Aut}(A) \setminus \{1\}$  is at most  $2^{3n/4+o(n)}$ .*

### Proof.

Note that  $A$  is at most  $\lfloor \log_2(n) \rfloor$ -generated and hence  $|\text{Aut}(A)| \leq n^{\log_2(n)} \leq 2^{o(n)}$ . We now count the number of subsets which are fixed setwise by a given  $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(A) \setminus \{1\}$ . Let  $\mathbf{C}_A(\varphi)$  denote the elements of  $A$  that are fixed by  $\varphi$ . Note that  $\varphi$  induces orbits of length 1 on  $\mathbf{C}_A(\varphi)$  and of length at least 2 on  $A \setminus \mathbf{C}_A(\varphi)$ . Let  $c = |\mathbf{C}_A(\varphi)|$ . The number of subsets of  $A$  which are fixed setwise by  $\varphi$  is at most  $2^{c+(n-c)/2} = 2^{n/2+c/2}$ . Since  $\mathbf{C}_A(\varphi)$  is a subgroup of  $A$ , we have  $c \leq n/2$  and  $n/2 + c/2 \leq 3n/4$ .  $\square$

# Outline of proof ideas

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In the **graph** case, there are some extra complications.

## Future work

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1. 2-groups,
2. nilpotent groups,
3. certain classes of solvable groups, etc..