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Vedúci záverečnej Jana Šiagiová

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1 Introduction

In its simplest form, networks can be modeled by graphs in a natural way in which network nodes are represented by vertices of the graph and links between nodes are represented by undirected edges of the graph. Restrictions on the network, such as limits on the number of links attached to a node, or limits on the number of links needed to connect any two nodes, or the length of a shortest circuit, then transform to restrictions on the graph model (for the indicated cases these would be restrictions on vertex degrees, on the diameter, and on the girth of the graph).

In graph theory this leads to two important problems: the degree/diameter problem to construct the largest possible graphs of a given maximum degree and a given diameter, and the degree/girth problem to construct the smallest possible regular graphs of a given degree and a given girth; in both cases the adjectives 'large' and 'small' refer to the order (i.e., the number of vertices) of a graph. The survey papers [8] and [4], respectively, contain a large amount of information on both problems. In this work we address both problems restricted to Cayley graphs of certain two-dimensional linear groups, giving details in what follows.

2 The degree/diameter problem

2.1 The Moore bound

There is theoretical upper bound named after E. F. Moore for the largest order of a graph with given diameter $k \geq 1$ and maximum degree $d \geq 2$, which one can derive by building a spanning tree of such a graph. A fixed vertex v of such a graph has at most d neighbours at distance 1. Each of these neighbours has at most d-1 vertices at distance 1 from themselves, giving at most d(d-1) vertices at distance 2 from v. Iterating this process ne obtains at most $d(d-1)^{i-1}$ vertices at distance i from v. By the diameter requirement, we have at most $d(d-1)^{k-1}$ vertices at distance k from v. Summing up, the largest order $n_{d,k}$ of a graph of maximum degree $d \geq 2$ and diameter $k \geq 1$ is at most $M_{d,k}$, the Moore bound for the pair (d,k), where

$$n_{d,k} \le M_{d,k} = 1 + d + d(d-1) + \dots + d(d-1)^{k-1}$$

$$= 1 + d(1 + (d-1) + \dots + (d-1)^{k-1})$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1 + d\frac{(d-1)^k - 1}{d-2}, & \text{if } d > 2\\ 2k + 1, & \text{if } d = 2 \end{cases}$$

$$(1)$$

2.2 Moore graphs

It is well known that equality in (1) holds only if d = 2 (for any $k \ge 1$), or k = 1 (for any $d \ge 2$), or for k = 2 and $d \in \{3,7\}$, and possibly for the pair (d,k) = (57,2) but for no other $d \ge 2$ and $k \ge 1$. All the graphs for which $n_{d,k} = M_{d,k}$ are called *Moore graphs*; they are necessarily regular and in the order of the listed parameters they are cycles of length 2k + 1, complete graphs of order d + 1, the Petersen graphs and the Hoffman-Singleton graph.

Research into the degree/diameter problem and into Moore graphs in particular was initiated by Hoffman and Singleton in [6] who proved that Moore graphs of diameter k = 2 can exist only for $d \in \{2, 3, 7\}$ and possibly 57, proving also their uniqueness except for the last case, and establishing also that the unique Moore graph of diameter 3 is the cycle of length 7. Their proofs exploit eigenvalues and eigenvectors of adjacency matrices (and the corresponding principal submatrices) of graphs.

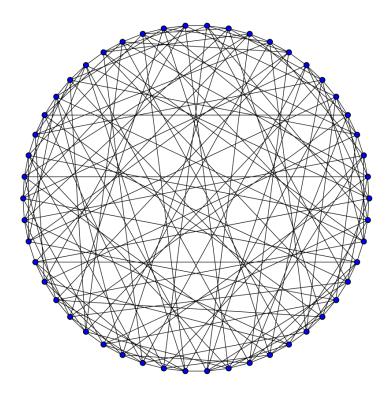


Figure 1: Hoffman-singleton graph is Moore graph with d=7 and k=2

2.3 Graphs of order close to the Moore bound

To facilitate the explanations, any graph of maximum degree d and diameter k will be called a (d, k)-graph. Because for $d \geq 3$ and $k \geq 2$ there are only a few (d, k)-graphs of order equal to the value $M_{d,k}$ of the Moore bound, researchers have tried to construct (d, k)-graphs of order as close to $M_{d,k}$ as possible. For a (d, k)-graph of order $M_{d,k} - \delta$ the quantity δ is knwn as the defect, and then we speak about a $(d, k, -\delta)$ -graph; we note that this terminology is only used for 'small' defects.

There are a number of results concerning graphs with small defect. For example, Erdös, Fajtlowitcz and Hoffman proved [3] that there is no graph of degree d and diameter 2 with $\delta = 1$ apart from the cycle of length 4. In the case of $\delta = 2$ and d = 2 all the (d, k, -2)-graphs are the cycles of length 2k - 1. For $\delta - 2$ and $d \geq 3$ only five graphs are known at present, namely, two (3, 2, -2)-graphs of order 8, one (4, 2, -2)-graph of order 15, one (5, 2, -2)-graph of order 24, and one (3, 3, -2)-graph of order 20; for details we refer to [8].

2.4 Constructions of large graphs

A different approach to finding (d, k)-graphs of order close to the Moore bound is by constructing appropriate 'large' (d, k)-graphs. In most cases the constructions use combinatorics on words or algebraic structures such as groups and fields, so that the resulting graphs turn out to be rich in symmetries, or even vertex-transitive (and sometimes even Cayley).

For a long time one of the asymptotically best families was the one of the *undirected* de Brujin graphs, which are (d, k) graphs for even d and yield the lower bound

$$n_{d,k} \ge \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^k$$
.

This bound was improved by Baskoro and Miller [1] to

$$n_{d,k} \ge \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^k + \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^{k-1} \tag{2}$$

In the special case of diameter k = 2, modified Brown graphs can give for sufficiently large d the bound

$$n_{d,2} \ge d^2 - 2d^{1+\varepsilon}$$

where the number $\varepsilon < 1$ depends on results about gaps between consecutive prime numbers; see [2] for details about the current development.

2.5 Graph lifting

Graph lifting is a technique by which one may produce 'large' graphs with certain required properties from suitable 'small' graphs. The technique is well-known in topological and algebraic graph theory and for historical and mathematical details we refer to the monograph [5]. The technique can be described in the language of the so-called voltage assignments, which we briefly present next.

Let G be a graph. Although our graphs are undirected, we will preassign a direction to every edge. An edge with a preassigned direction is an arc. If e is an arc of G, by the symbol e^{-1} we denote the reverse of e, obtained simply by changing the preassigned direction on the edge. Let D(G) be the set of all arcs of G; it follows that the size of D(G) is twice the number of edges of G.

Let G be a graph as above and let Γ be a finite group. The mapping

$$\alpha:D(G)\to\Gamma$$

will be called a voltage assignment if $\alpha(e^{-1}) = (\alpha(e))^{-1}$, for any arc $e \in D(G)$.

Out of the graph G and the voltage assignment α as introduced above one can construct a 'larger' graph, called the *lift* of G (under the assignment α) and denoted G^{α} . The vertex set and the dart set of the new graph are defined as follows:

$$V(G^{\alpha}) = V(G) \times \Gamma$$

$$E(G^{\alpha}) = E(G) \times \Gamma$$

with the condition that if an arc e emanates from a vertex u and terminates in a vertex v in the base graph G, then for every $g \in \Gamma$ there is a dart (e, g) emanating from the vertex (u, g) and terminating in the vertex $(v, g\alpha(e))$. It follows that right multiplication by $\alpha(e)$ permutes the terminal vertices of arcs (e, g) emanating from the vertices (u, g). At the same time this right multiplication induces a group of automorphisms of the lift acting freely on vertices and isomorphic to the voltage group Γ . Note that G^{α} can be considered to be an undirected graph, because the arcs (e, g) and $(e^{-1}, g\alpha(e))$ are reverse of each other.

This procedure can be reversed in the following sense, cf. [5]. Let \tilde{G} be a graph and let Γ be a group of automorphisms of \tilde{G} that acts freely on vertices of \tilde{G} . Then \tilde{G} is a lift of a 'smaller' graph, denoted \tilde{G}/Γ and called a *quotient*, which is obtained from \tilde{G} by letting Γ -orbits of the vertex set and the arc set of \tilde{G} to be vertices and arcs of the quotient, with incidence inherited from \tilde{G} .

Of course, degrees of all the vertices (u,g) in the lift are equal to the degree of u in the base graph. An advantage of lifting is that the diameter of the lift can be conveniently controlled by properties of the base graph G and the voltage assignment α as well. A walk of length ℓ in G is any sequence $W = e_1 e_2 \dots e_{\ell}$ of consecutive arcs of G, and the voltage $\alpha(W)$ of the walk is simply the product $\alpha(W) = \alpha(e_1)\alpha(e_2)\cdots\alpha(e_{\ell})$. Then (cf. e.g. the survey [8]), the lift G^{α} has diameter at most k if for any two vertices u, v of G and for any element $g \in \Gamma$ there is a walk W of length at most k emanating from u and terminating at v such that $\alpha(W) = g$; in the case when u = v we also require that $g \neq 1$.

A number of the largest currently known d, k-graphs can be described as lifts. For example, all the graphs giving the values of $n_{3,7}$, $n_{3,8}$, $n_{4,4}$, $n_{5,3}$, $n_{5,5}$, $n_{6,3}$, $n_{6,4}$, $n_{7,3}$, $n_{14,3}$ and $n_{16,2}$ obtained by computer search turn out to be lifts [8].

2.6 Cayley graphs

Let Γ be a group and let $S \subset \Gamma$ be a symmetric unit-free generating set for Γ ; that is, we require that $S = S^{-1}$ and $1 \notin S$. The Cayley graph $C(\Gamma, S)$ is the graph with vertex set Γ in which vertices a, b are adjacent if $a^{-1}b \in S$. Observe that now the group Γ acts regularly and hence freely on the vertex set of $C(\Gamma, S)$ as a group of automorphisms, so that the quotient graph $C(\Gamma, S)/\Gamma$ has just one vertex. By the remark in the previous section about groups of automorphisms acting freely in vertices it follows that Cayley graphs are simply lifts of one-vertex graphs (which will in general contain multiple loops and semi-edges but we will not go into the corresponding details).

The diameter testing of lifts now easily translates into testing diameter of Cayley graphs as follows: A Cayley graph $C(\Gamma, S)$ has diameter at most k if and only if every element of Γ can be expressed as a product of at most k elements of the generating set S. Equivalently, the diameter of a Cayley graph $C(\Gamma, S)$ is equal to k if and only if k is the smallest number such that every element of Γ can be expressed as a product of at most k elements of S.

By $Cay_{d,k}$ we denote the largest order of a Cayley (d,k)-graph. In [7] it was proved that for every fixed $d \geq 3$ and $c \geq 2$ there is a set A of natural numbers with positive density s.t. $C_{d,k} \leq M_{d,k} - c$ for all $k \in A$.

The currently best available lower bound on $C_{d,2}$ was obtained by Šiagiová and Širáň [9] and reads as follows. Let $D = \{2^{2m+\mu} + (2+\delta)2^{m+1} - 6, m \ge 1, \mu \in \{0,1\}\}$. Then, for every $d \in D$ one has $C_{d,2} > d^2 - 6\sqrt{2}d^{3/2}$.

In the special case of Cayley graphs of diameter k=2 on Abelian groups there is a relatively straightforward lower bound of the form

$$n_{d,2} \ge \lfloor \frac{d+2}{2} \rfloor \lceil \frac{d+2}{2} \rceil$$

obtained by considering the product of cyclic groups $Z_{\lfloor (d+2)/2 \rfloor} \times Z_{\lceil (d+2)/2 \rceil}$, with generating set consisting of all pairs (x_1, x_2) with one of the entries equal to zero.

2.7 General linear and special linear groups

Linear groups are usually described in terms of linear transformations of vector spaces over general fields. For our purposes it will be sufficient to work with a more concrete description and restricted to finite fields. Let q be a power of a prime and let GF(q) be the Galois field of order q. The general linear group GL(m,q) consists of all non-singular $m \times m$ matrices over GF(q) under multiplication of matrices in the usual sense. By an elementary fact in group theory the order of GL(m,q) is equal to $(q^m - 1)(q^m - q) \cdots (q^m - q^{n-1})$. The special linear group SL(m,q) is the subgroup of GL(m,q) consisting of matrices with determinant equal to 1; its order is |SL(m,q)| = |GL(m,q)|/(q-1).

We will be particularly interested in the case m=2 and q=p for some prime numbers p, and in Cayley graphs of diameter 2 arising from the groups SL(2,p). To the best of our knowledge such a study has not appeared in the available literature.

3 Results

3.1 Example of Cayley graph

For example we generate Cayley graph on group SL(2,3) with order |SL(2,3)| = 24 consiting of

$$SL(2,3) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

For generating set S with three pairs of elements and its inverses

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Cayley graph C(SL(2,3), S) has order 24, d = 6 and k = 2.

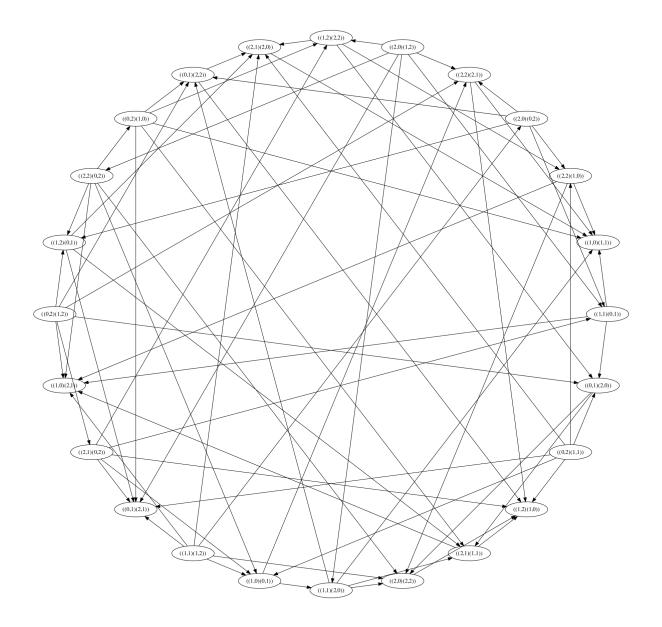


Figure 2: Output of circos [11] of C(SL(2,3),S)

The generating set S of the group G = SL(2,3) in this example has the form $\{x_1, x_1^{-1}, x_2, x_2^{-1}, x_3, x_3^{-1}\}$. To verify that the Cayley graph C(G, S) has diameter 2 one would have to show that the set S together with the identity and with all products $x_i^{\pm 1}y_j^{\pm 1}$ gives the entire group G.

3.2 Generation of cayley graphs with given diameter

All of our Cayley graphs which are generated through its symmetric sets were choosed randomly. As mentioned earlier choosing random symmetric sets consits of choosing elements of group with its inverses over finite field arithmetic. In our implementation all elements of group were precomputed. Every element A had its inverse computed

by formula:

$$\frac{1}{\det(A)}adjugate(A) = A^{-1} \tag{3}$$

We also keept all involutions apart in case of choosing last element for sets with odd size.

We present algorithm for generation of Cayley graph in pseudocode.

```
1 function cayley graph generation (generating set [])
2
  {
2
      push all from generating set[] to stack[]
      current node = first element of stack[]
3
      while stack[] not empty
5
6
        foreach generating_element in generating_set[]
              result = current_node x generating_element % Zp
7
              cayley graph [ current node ] = result
8
              if generating nodes [ result ] is empty
10
                   push stack[], result
11
                   generating_nodes[ result ] = result
12
13
14
        shift to the left stack[]
15
        current node = first element of stack[]
16
17
18
      return cayley_graph[]
19}
```

On lines 8, 10, 12 we denoted by [r] putting resulting matrix into so called associative array also known as dictionary or hash array. It's worth mentioning that there exists perfect hash function for matrices over finite fields for such purposes. Algorithm uses stack[] for storing matrices which weren't multiplied over generating set while $generating_nodes[]$ to keep them unique to keep memory overhead low at cost of computation of hash.

To check diameter of graph one has to make only computations on generating set. To check wheter graph has diameter k it's required least if graph has not of diameter k-1. To find unknown k one has to iterate through all $k \in 1$... diameters. We didn't

use algorithm for special case of k = 1 which was checked only by checking degree of all nodes in graph.

```
1 function check_diameter(gen_set[], cayley_graph[], diameter)
2
3
    push reached nodes[], gen set[]
4
 foreach n in [2, ..., diameter]
5
    foreach var = variation with repetitions of length len
6
7
      node = gen set[var[0]] x ... x gen set[var[len]]
      push reached nodes [], node
8
9
    if reached nodes [] contains all elements of group
10
      retrun cayley_graph has given diameter
11
12
13
    retrun cayley graph has not given diameter
14 }
```

3.3 Computer search of graphs with diameter

Here we present results of computer seach of graphs. We have choosed two approaches in order to find graphs with diameter two. In early stages of program we have tried to find graphs with generating fixed size of graphs on degree d. Later on we used adaptive algorithm to search any graph of diameter two with ability to improve its results if it's feasible.

Search with fixed size of generated graphs was used on two smaller groups SL(2,5) and SL(2,7). It's assumed that Cayley graph will yield all elements of groups. Here we present table of results for SL(2,5) with Moore bound for parameters k=2 and |SL(2,5)|=120 is d=11, therefore search was done on degree 12. 50000 random graphs were genreated on each degree with following results:

Same approach was used on graphs in SL(2,7) with order of 336 with Moore bound

on d=19. We have searched 150000 graphs on each degree from 20 to 30 with only 10 graphs found on d=30.

For comparsion we present latest known results for Cayley graphs with k=2

d	Order	% Moore Bound	d	Order	% Moore Bound
4	13	76.47%	31	648	67.35%
5	18	69.23%	32	648	63.21%
6	32	86.48%	33	648	59.44%
7	36	72%	34	648	56%
8	48	73.48%	35	648	52.85%
9	60	73.17%	36	648	49.96%
10	72	71.28%	37	800	58.39%
11	84	68.85%	38	800	55.36%
12	96	66.20%	39	800	52.56%
13	112	65.88%	40	968	60.46%
14	128	64.97%	41	968	57.55%
15	144	63.71%	42	968	54.84%
16	200	77.82%	43	968	52.32%
17	200	68.96%	44	968	49.97%
18	200	61.53%	45	1058	52.22%
19	200	55.24%	46	1152	54.41%
20	210	55.36%	47	1152	52.12%
21	288	65.15%	48	1152	49.97%
22	288	59.38%	49	1352	56.28%
23	392	73.96%	50	1352	54.05%
24	392	67.93%	51	1352	51.96%
25	392	62.61%	52	1352	49.98%
26	392	57.90%	53	1458	51.88%
27	392	53.69%	54	1568	53.75%
28	512	65.52%	55	1568	51.81%
29	512	60.80%	56	1568	49.98%
30	512	56.82%	57	1682	51.75%

4 The degree/girth problem

Finding graphs with smallest possible order denoted $n_{d,g}$ with given degree d and girth $g \geq 3$ is known as $degree/girth\ problem$. Motivation for finding such graphs could arise from constructing graphs with no cycles with length g or less and its similarity to $degree/diameter\ problem$. Problem was studied first by Biggs [10] on regular graphs.

4.1 Moore bound

For odd g we have Moore bound denoted by $M_{d,g}$

$$n_{d,q} \ge M(d,g) = 1 + d + d(d-1) + d(d-1)^2 + \dots + d(d-1)^{\frac{g-3}{2}}$$

and for even g

$$n_{d,q} \ge M(d,g) = 2(1 + (d-1) + (d-1)^2 + \dots + (d-1)^{\frac{g-2}{2}})$$

For odd g Moore bound constructed same as Moore bound for degree/diameter problem with k = (g - 1)/2. For even g we start with edge and from incident vertices we continue until we reach depth (g - 2)/2.

4.2 Moore graphs

Graphs with Moore bound equal to M(d, g) are called Moore graphs or cages. We list all ceses with $n_{d,g} = M_{d,g}$ below:

- For $d=2, g \ge 2$ circles
- For g = 3, $d \ge 22$ complete graphs
- $\bullet \ \mbox{For} \ g=5, \ d \geq 2$ complete bipartite graphs
- For g = 5, d = 2 circle with length 5

d=3 - Peterssen graph

d=7 - Hoffman-Singleton graph

d = 57 - possible, graph is unknown

• For $g \in 6, 8, 12$, if d-1 is prime factor

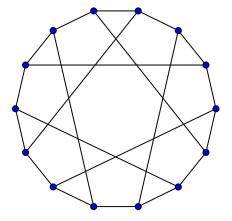


Figure 3: Heawood graph is Moore graph with d=3 and g=6

4.3 Example of Cayley graph

Here we present example of Cayley graph on group SL(2,3) with order |SL(2,3)| = 24

4.4 Generation of cayley graphs with given girth

Same as for diameter we check girth of graph making computations on generating set. Checking if girth g on graph we have to confirm that graphs doesn't have cycle with length $3 \le n \le g - 1$. Here we present algorithm used for computation of girth:

```
function find cycle (generating set [], girth)
1
2
   {
3
    foreach var = variation of length girth
4
      node = generating_set[ var[0] ] x ... x genearating_set[ var[girth] ]
5
      if node equal to eye matrix
6
        return found cycle
7
    return cycle not found
8
9
   }
10
   function check_given_girth(generating_set[], girth)
12
    if(find_cycle(generating_set[], grith) {
13
      foreach i in (3..girth - 1) {
14
        if(find_cycle(generating_set[], i)) {
15
          return has not given girth
16
17
        }
      }
18
```

```
19 return graph has given girth
20 } else {
21 return has not given girth
22 }
23 }
```

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