

# Lecture Note on Terwilliger Algebra

P. Terwilliger, edited by H. Suzuki

2022-11-16



# Contents

<b>About this lecturenote</b>	<b>5</b>
Setting . . . . .	5
Another Host . . . . .	6
<b>1 Subconstituent Algebra of a Graph</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2 Perron-Frobenius Theorem</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3 Cayley Graphs</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4 Examples</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>5 Final Words</b>	<b>31</b>



# About this lecturenote

## Setting

This note is created by `bookdown` package on RStudio.

For `bookdown` See (Xie, 2015), (Xie, 2017), (Yihui Xie, 2018).

1. Log-in to my GitHub Account
2. Go to RStudio/bookdown-demo repository: <https://github.com/rstudio/bookdown-demo>
3. Use This Template
4. Input Repository Name
5. Select Public - default
6. Create repository from template
7. From Code download ZIP
8. Move the extracted folder into a favorite directory
9. Open RStudio Project in the folder
10. Use Terminal in the bottom left pane
  - confirm that the current directory is the home directory of the project by `pwd`
11. (failed to proceed by ssh)
12. Use Console
  1. `library(usethis)`
  2. `use_git()`
  3. `use_github()` — Error
  4. `gh_token_help()`
  5. `create_github_token()`: create a token in the github page. Copy the token
  6. `gitcreds::gitcreds_set()`: paste the token, the token is to be expired in 30 days
13. Use Terminal
  1. `git remote add origin https://github.com/icu-hsuzuki/t-algebra.git`
  2. `git push -u origin main`
  3. type in the password of the computer
14. Use GIT in R Studio

## Another Host

1. `library(usethis)`
2. `use_git()`
3. `create_github_token()`
4. `gitcreds::gitcreds_set()`: Replace these credentials

# Chapter 1

## Subconstituent Algebra of a Graph

Wednesday, January 20, 1993

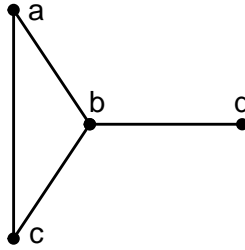
A graph (undirected, without loops or multiple edges) is a pair  $\Gamma = (X, E)$ , where

$$X = \text{finite set (of vertices)} \quad (1.1)$$

$$E = \text{set of (distinct) 2-element subsets of } X \text{ (= edges of } \Gamma). \quad (1.2)$$

vertices  $x$  and  $y \in X$  are adjacent if and only if  $xy \in E$ .

**Example 1.1.** Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph.  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$ ,  $E = \{ab, ac, bc, bd\}$ .



Set  $n = |X|$ , the order of  $\Gamma$ .

Pick a field  $K$  ( $= \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ ). Then  $\text{Mat}_X(K)$  denotes the  $K$  algebra of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in  $K$ . (rows and columns are indexed by  $X$ )

*Adjacency matrix*  $A \in \text{Mat}_X(K)$  is defined by

$$A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } xy \in E \\ 0 & \text{else .} \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

**Example 1.2.** Let  $a, b, c, d$  be labels of rows and columns. Then

$$A = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} a & b & c & d \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

The subalgebra  $M$  of  $\text{Mat}_X(K)$  generated by  $A$  is called the *Bose-Mesner algebra* of  $\Gamma$ .

Set  $V = K^n$ , the set of  $n$ -dimensional column vectors, the coordinates are indexed by  $X$ .

Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denote the Hermitean inner product:

$$\langle u, v \rangle = u^\top \cdot v \quad (u, v \in V)$$

$V$  with  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the *standard module* of  $\Gamma$ .

$M$  acts on  $V$ : For every  $x \in X$ , write

$$\hat{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where 1 is at the  $x$  position.

Then

$$A\hat{x} = \sum_{y \in X, xy \in E} \hat{y}.$$

Since  $A$  is a real symmetrix matrix,

$$V = V_0 + V_1 + \cdots + V_r \quad \text{some } r \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0},$$

the orthogonal direct sum of maximal  $A$ -eigenspaces.

Let  $E_i \in \text{Mat}_X(K)$  denote the orthogonal projection,

$$E_i : V \longrightarrow V_i.$$

Then  $E_0, \dots, E_r$  are the primitive idempotents of  $M$ .

$$M = \text{Span}_K(E_0, \dots, E_r),$$

$$E_i E_j = \delta_{ij} E_i \quad \text{for all } i, j, \quad E_0 + \cdots + E_r = I.$$



Let  $\theta_i$  denote the eigenvalue of  $A$  for  $V_i$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that

$$\theta_0 > \theta_1 > \dots > \theta_r.$$

Let

$$m_i = \text{the multiplicity of } \theta_i = \dim V_i = \text{rank } E_i.$$

Set

$$\text{Spec}(\Gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_0, & \theta_1, & \dots, & \theta_r \\ m_0, & m_1, & \dots, & m_r \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Problem.** What can we say about  $\Gamma$  when  $\text{Spec}(\Gamma)$  is given?

The following Lemma 1.1, is an example of Problem.

For every  $x \in X$ ,

$$k(x) \equiv \text{valency of } x \equiv \text{degree of } x \equiv |\{y \mid y \in X, xy \in E\}|.$$

**Definition 1.1.** The graph  $\Gamma$  is regular of valency  $k$  if  $k = k(x)$  for every  $x \in X$ .

**Lemma 1.1.** *With the above notation,*

- (i)  $\theta_0 \leq \max\{k(x) \mid x \in X\} = k^{\max}$ .
- (ii) *If  $\Gamma$  is regular of valency  $k$ , then  $\theta_0 = k$ .*

*Proof.* (i) Without loss of generality we may assume that  $\theta_0 > 0$ , else done. Let  $v := \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x \hat{x}$  denote the eivenvector for  $\theta_0$ .

Pick  $x \in X$  with  $|\alpha_x|$  maximal. Then  $|\alpha_x| \neq 0$ .

Since  $Av = \theta_0 v$ ,

$$\theta_0 \alpha_x = \sum_{y \in X, xy \in E} \alpha_y.$$

So,

$$\theta_0 |\alpha_x| = |\theta_0 \alpha_x| \leq \sum_{y \in X, xy \in E} |\alpha_y| \leq k(x) |\alpha_x| \leq k^{\max} |\alpha_x|.$$

- (ii) All 1's vector  $v = \sum_{x \in X} \hat{x}$  satisfies  $Av = kv$ .

□

### Subconstituent Algebra

Let  $x, y \in X$  and  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ .

**Definition 1.2.** A path of length  $\ell$  connecting  $x, y$  is a sequence

$$x = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell = y, \quad x_i \in X, \quad 0 \leq i \leq \ell$$

such that  $x_i x_{i+1} \in E$  for  $0 \leq i \leq \ell - 1$ .

**Definition 1.3.** The distance  $\partial(x, y)$  is the length of a shortest path connecting  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$\partial(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}.$$

**Definition 1.4.** The graph  $\Gamma$  is connected if and only if  $\partial(x, y) < \infty$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

From now on, assume that  $\Gamma$  is connected with  $|X| \geq 2$ .

Set

$$d_\Gamma = d = \max\{\partial(x, y) \mid x, y \in X\} \equiv \text{the diameter of } \Gamma.$$

Fix a ‘base’ vertex  $x \in X$ .

**Definition 1.5.**

$$d(x) = \text{the diameter with respect to } x = \max\{\partial(x, y) \mid y \in X\} \leq d.$$

Observe that

$$V = V_0^* + V_1^* + \cdots + V_{d(x)}^* \quad (\text{orthogonal direct sum}),$$

where

$$V_i^* = \text{Span}_K(\hat{y} \mid \partial(x, y) = i) \equiv V_i * (x)$$

and  $V_i^* = V_i^*(x)$  is called the  $i$ -th subconstituent with respect to  $x$ .

Let  $E_i^* = E_i^*(x)$  denote the orthogonal projection

$$E_i^* : V \longrightarrow V_i^*(x).$$

View  $E_i^*(x) \in \text{Mat}_X(K)$ . So,  $E_i^*(x)$  is diagonal with  $yy$  entry

$$(E_i^*(x))_{yy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \partial(x, y) = i \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases} \quad \text{for } y \in X.$$

Set

$$M^* = M^*(x) \equiv \text{Span}_K(E_0^*(x), \dots, E_{d(x)}^*(x)).$$

Then  $M^*(x)$  is a commutative subalgebra of  $\text{Mat}_X(K)$  and is called the *dual Bose-Mesner algebra with respect to  $x$* .

**Definition 1.6** (Subconstituent Algebra). Let  $\Gamma = (X, E)$ ,  $x, M, M^*(x)$  be as above. Let  $T = T(x)$  denote the subalgebra of  $\text{Mat}_X(K)$  generated by  $M$  and  $M^*(x)$ .  $T$  is the *subconstituent algebra* of  $\Gamma$  with respect to  $x$ .

**Definition 1.7.** A  $T$ -module is any subspace  $W \subset V$  such that  $aw \in W$  for all  $a \in T$  and  $w \in W$ .

$T$ -module  $W$  is *irreducible* if and only if  $W \neq 0$  and  $W$  does not properly contain a nonzero  $T$ -module.

For any  $a \in \text{Mat}_X(K)$ , let  $a^*$  denote the conjugate transpose of  $a$ .

Observe that

$$\langle au, v \rangle = \langle u, a^*v \rangle \quad \text{for all } a \in \text{Mat}_X(K), \text{ and for all } u, v \in V.$$

**Lemma 1.2.** *Let  $\Gamma = (X, E)$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $T \equiv T(x)$  be as above.*

(i) *If  $a \in T$ , then  $a^* \in T$ .*

(ii) *For any  $T$ -module  $W \subset V$ ,*

$$W^\perp := \{v \in V \mid \langle w, v \rangle = 0, \text{ for all } w \in W\}$$

*is a  $T$ -module.*

(iii)  *$V$  decomposes as an orthogonal direct sum of irreducible  $T$ -modules.*

*Proof.* (i) It is because  $T$  is generated by symmetric real matrices

$$A, E_0^*(x), E_1^*(x), \dots, E_{d(x)(x)}^*.$$

(ii) Pick  $v \in W^\perp$  and  $a \in T$ , it suffices to show that  $av \in W^\perp$ . For all  $w \in W$ ,

$$\langle w, av \rangle = \langle a^*w, v \rangle = 0$$

as  $a^* \in T$ .

(iii) This is proved by the induction on the dimension of  $T$ -modules. If  $W$  is an irreducible  $T$ -module of  $V$ , then

$$V = W + W^\perp \quad (\text{orthogonal direct sum}).$$

□

**Problem.** What does the structure of the  $T(x)$ -module tell us about  $\Gamma$ ?

Study those  $\Gamma$  whose modules take ‘simple’ form. The  $\Gamma$ ’s involved are highly regular.

*Remark.* 1. The subconstituent algebra  $T$  is semisimple as the left regular representation of  $T$  is completely reducible. See Curtis-Reiner 25.2 (Charles W. Curtis, 2006).

2. The inner product  $\langle a, b \rangle_T = \text{tr}(a^\top \bar{b})$  is nondegenerate on  $T$ .

3. In general,

$$T: \text{Semisimple and Artinian} \Leftrightarrow T: \text{Artinian with } J(T) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow T: \text{Artinian with nonzero nilpotent element}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow T \subset \text{Mat}_X(K) \text{ such that for all } a \in T \text{ is normal.}$$



## Chapter 2

# Perron-Frobenius Theorem

Friday, January 22, 1993

In this lecture we use the Perron Frobenius theory of nonnegative matrices to obtain information on eigenvalues of a graph.

Let  $K = \mathbb{R}$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^{>0}$ , pick a symmetric matrix  $C \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition 2.1.** The matrix  $C$  is *reducible* if and only if there is a bipartition  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\} = X^+ \cup X^-$  (disjoint union of nonempty sets) such that  $C_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i \in X^+$ , and for all  $j \in X^-$ , and for all  $i \in X^-$ , and for all  $j \in X^+$ , i.e.,

$$C \sim \begin{pmatrix} * & O \\ O & * \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Definition 2.2.** The matrix  $C$  is *bipartite* if and only if there is a bipartition  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\} = X^+ \cup X^-$  (disjoint union of nonempty sets) such that  $C_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i, j \in X^+$ , and for all  $i, j \in X^-$ , i.e.,

$$C \sim \begin{pmatrix} O & * \\ * & O \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Note.**

1. If  $C$  is bipartite, for every eigenvalue  $\theta$  of  $C$ ,  $-\theta$  is an eigenvalue of  $C$  such that  $\text{mult}(\theta) = \text{mult}(-\theta)$ .

Indeed, let  $C = \begin{pmatrix} O & A \\ B & O \end{pmatrix}$ ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} O & A \\ B & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \theta \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} O & A \\ B & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ -y \end{pmatrix} = -\theta \begin{pmatrix} x \\ -y \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $Ay = \theta x$  and  $Bx = \theta y$ .

2. If  $C$  is bipartite,  $C^2$  is reducible.
3. The matrix  $C$  is irreducible and  $C^2$  is reducible, if  $C_{ij} \geq 0$  for all  $i, j$  and  $C$  is reducible. (Exercise)

*Remark.* Note 1. Even if  $C$  is not symmetric

$$\begin{pmatrix} O & A \\ B & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \theta \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} O & A \\ B & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ -y \end{pmatrix} = -\theta \begin{pmatrix} x \\ -y \end{pmatrix}$$

holds. So the geometrix multiplicities coincide. How about the algebraic multiplicities?

Note 3. Set  $x \sim y$  if and only if  $C_{xy} > 0$ . So the graph may have loops. Then

$$(C^2)_{xy} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{if there exists } z \in X \text{ such that } x \sim z \sim y.$$

Note that  $C$  is irreducible if and only if  $\Gamma(C)$  is connected. Let

$$X^+ = \{y \mid \text{there is a path of even length from } x \text{ to } y\} \quad (2.1)$$

$$X^- = \{y \mid \text{there is no path of even length from } x \text{ to } y\} \neq \emptyset. \quad (2.2)$$

If there is an edge  $y \sim z$  in  $X^+$  and  $w \in X^-$ . Then there would be a path from  $x$  to  $y$  of even length. So  $e(X^+, X^+) = e(X^-, X^-) = 0$ .

**Theorem 2.1** (Perron-Frobenius). *Given a matrix  $C$  in  $\text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{R})$  such that*

- (a)  $C$  is symmetric.
- (b)  $C$  is irreducible.
- (c)  $C_{ij} \geq 0$  for all  $i, j$ .

*Let  $\theta_0$  be the maximal eigenvalue of  $C$  with eigenspace  $V_0 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $\theta_r$  be the maximal eigenvalue of  $C$  with eigenspace  $V_r \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then the following hold.*

$$(i) \text{ Suppose } 0 \neq v = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix} \in V_0. \text{ Then } \alpha_0 > 0 \text{ for all } i, \text{ or } \alpha_i < 0 \text{ for all } i.$$

$$(ii) \dim V_0 = 1.$$

$$(iii) \theta_r \geq -\theta_0.$$

$$(iv) \theta_r = \theta_0 \text{ if and only if } C \text{ is bipartite.}$$

First, we prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be the dot product in  $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ . Pick a symmetric matrix  $B \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{R})$ . Suppose all eigenvalues of  $B$  are nonnegative. (i.e.,  $B$  is positive semidefinite.) Then there exist vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \in V$  such that  $B_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_j \rangle$  for  $(1 \leq i, j \leq n)$ .*

*Proof.* By elementary linear algebra, there exists an orthonormal basis  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n$  of  $V$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $B$ . Set the  $i$ -th column of  $P$  is  $w_i$  and  $D = \text{diag}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n)$ . Then  $P^\top P = I$  and  $BP = PD$ .

Hence,

$$B = PDP^{-1} = PDP^\top = QQ^\top,$$

where

$$Q = P \cdot \text{diag}(\sqrt{\theta_1}, \sqrt{\theta_2}, \dots, \sqrt{\theta_n}) \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{R}).$$

Now, let  $v_i$  be the  $i$ -th column of  $Q^\top$ . Then

$$B_{ij} = v_i^\top \cdot v_j = \langle v_i, v_j \rangle.$$

□

Now we start the proof of Theorem 2.1.

*Proof of Theorem 2.1(i)*

Let  $\langle, \rangle$  denote the dot product on  $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ . Set

$$B = \theta I - C \tag{2.3}$$

$$= \text{symmetric matrix with eigenvalues } \theta_0 - \theta_i \geq 0 \tag{2.4}$$

$$= (\langle v_i, v_j \rangle)_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \tag{2.5}$$

with the same  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in V$  by Lemma 2.1.

Observe:  $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i = 0$ .

*Pf.*

$$\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i \right\|^2 = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i, \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i \right\rangle \tag{2.6}$$

$$= (\alpha_1 \quad \dots \quad \alpha_n) B \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.7}$$

$$= v^\top B v \tag{2.8}$$

$$= 0, \tag{2.9}$$

since  $Bv = (\theta_0 I - C)v = 0$ .

Now set

$$s = \text{the number of indices } i, \text{ where } \alpha_i > 0.$$

Replacing  $v$  by  $-v$  if necessary, without loss of generality we may assume that  $s \geq 1$ . We want to show  $s = n$ .

Assume  $s < n$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $\alpha_i > 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s$  and  $\alpha_i = 0$  for  $s+1 \leq i \leq n$ . Set

$$\rho = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_s v_s = -\alpha_{s+1} v_{s+1} - \dots - \alpha_n v_n.$$

Then, for  $i = 1, \dots, s$ ,

$$\langle v_i, \rho \rangle = \sum_{j=s+1}^n -\alpha_j \langle v_i, v_j \rangle \quad (\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = B_{ij}, B = \theta_0 I - C) \quad (2.10)$$

$$= \sum_{j=s+1}^n (-\alpha_j)(-C_{ij}) \quad (2.11)$$

$$\leq 0. \quad (2.12)$$

Hence

$$0 \leq \langle \rho, \rho \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^s \alpha_i \langle v_i, \rho \rangle \leq 0,$$

as  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\langle v_i, \rho \rangle \leq 0$ . Thus, we have  $\langle \rho, \rho \rangle = 0$  and  $\rho = 0$ . For  $j = s+1, \dots, n$ ,

$$0 = \langle \rho, v_j \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^s \alpha_i \langle v_i, v_j \rangle \leq 0,$$

as  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = -C_{ij}$ .

Therefore,

$$0 = \langle v_i, v_j \rangle = -C_{ij} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq s, s+1 \leq j \leq n.$$

Since  $C$  is symmetric,

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} * & O \\ O & * \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus  $C$  is reducible, which is not the case. Hence  $s = n$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.1 (ii).*

Suppose  $\dim V_0 \geq 2$ . Then,

$$\dim \left( V_0 \cap \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^\perp \right) \geq 1.$$

So, there is a vector

$$0 \neq v = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix} \in V_0$$

with  $\alpha_1 = 0$ . This contradicts 1.

Now pick

$$0 \neq w = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{pmatrix} \in V_r.$$

*Proof of Theorem 2.1 (iii).*



Suppose  $\theta_r < -\theta_0$ . Since the eigenvalues of  $C^2$  are the squares of those of  $C$ ,  $\theta_r^2$  is the maximal eigenvalue of  $C^2$ .

Also we have  $C^2 w = \theta_r^2 w$ .

Observe that  $C^2$  is irreducible. (As otherwise,  $C$  is bipartite by Note 3, and we must have  $\theta_r = -\theta_0$ .) Therefore,  $\beta_i > 0$  for all  $i$  or  $\beta_i < 0$  for all  $i$ . We have

$$\langle v, w \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \beta_i \neq 0.$$

This is a contradiction, as  $V_0 \perp V_r$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.1 (iv)*

$\Rightarrow$ : Let  $\theta_r = -\theta_0$ . Then  $\theta = \theta_1^2 = \theta_0^2$  is the maximal eigenvalue of  $C^2$ , and  $v$  and  $w$  are linearly independent eigenvalues for  $\theta$  for  $C^2$ . Hence, for  $C^2$ ,  $\text{mult}(\theta) \geq 2$ .

Thus by 2,  $C^2$  must be reducible. Therefore,  $C$  is bipartite by Note 3.

$\Leftarrow$ : This is Note 1.  $\square$

Let  $\Gamma = (X, E)$  be any graph.

**Definition 2.3.**  $\Gamma$  is said to be *bipartite* if the adjacency matrix  $A$  is bipartite. That is,  $X$  can be written as a disjoint union of  $X^+$  and  $X^-$  such that  $X^+, X^-$  contain no edges of  $\Gamma$ .

**Corollary 2.1.** *For any (connected) graph  $\Gamma$  with*

$$\text{Spec}(\Gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \cdots & \theta_r \\ m_1 & m_1 & \cdots & m_r \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with } \theta_0 > \theta_1 > \cdots > \theta_r.$$

*Let  $V_i$  be the eigenspace of  $\theta_i$ . Then the following holds.*

1. *Supppose  $0 \neq v = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix} \in V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $\alpha_i > 0$  for all  $i$  or  $\alpha_i < 0$  for all  $i$ .*
2.  $m_0 = 1$ .
3.  $\theta_r \geq -\theta_0$  *if and only if  $\Gamma$  is bipartite. In this case,*

$$-\theta_i = \theta_{r-i} \text{ and } m_i = m_{r-i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq r)$$

*Proof.* This is a direct consequences of Theorem 2.1 and Note 3.  $\square$



## Chapter 3

# Cayley Graphs

Monday, January 25, 1993

Given graphs  $\Gamma = (X, E)$  and  $\Gamma' = (X', E')$ .

**Definition 3.1.** A map  $\sigma : X \rightarrow X'$  is an *isomorphism* of graphs whenever;

- i.  $\sigma$  is one-to-one and onto,
- ii.  $xy \in E$  if and only if  $\sigma x \sigma y \in E'$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

We do not distinguish between isomorphic graphs.

**Definition 3.2.** Suppose  $\Gamma = \Gamma'$ . Above isomorphism  $\sigma$  is called an *automorphism* of  $\Gamma$ . Then set  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  of all automorphisms of  $\Gamma$  becomes a finite group under composition.

**Definition 3.3.** If  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  acts transitive on  $X$ ,  $\Gamma$  is called *vertex transitive*.

**Example 3.1.** A Cayley graphs:

**Definition 3.4** (Cayley Graphs). Let  $G$  be any finite group, and  $\Delta$  any generating set for  $G$  such that  $1_G \notin \Delta$  and  $g \in \Delta \rightarrow g^{-1} \in \Delta$ . Then Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \Gamma(G, \Delta)$  is defined on the vertex set  $X = G$  with the edge set  $E$  defined by the following.

$$E = \{(h_1, h_2) \mid h_1, h_2 \in G, h_1^{-1}h_2 \in \Delta\} = \{(h, hg) \mid h \in G, g \in \Delta\}$$

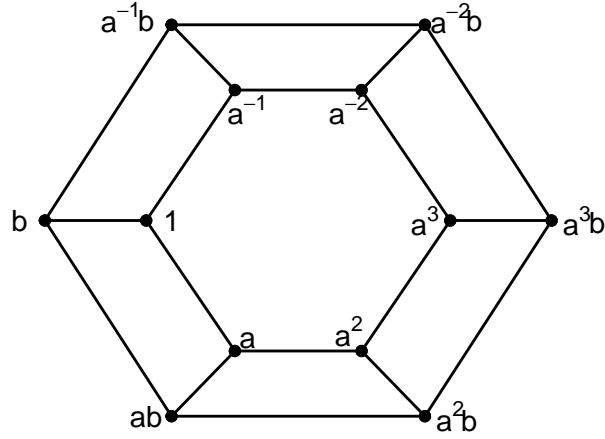
**Example 3.2.**  $G = \langle a \mid a^6 = 1 \rangle$ ,  $\Delta = \{a, a^{-1}\}$ .



**Example 3.3.**  $G = \langle a \mid a^6 = 1 \rangle$ ,  $\Delta = \{a, a^{-1}, a^2, a^{-2}\}$ .



**Example 3.4.**  $G = \langle a, b \mid a^6 = 1, b^2 = 1, ab = ba \rangle$ ,  $\Delta = \{a, a^{-1}, b\}$ .



*Remark.*  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \simeq D_6 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  contains two regular subgroups isomorphic to  $D_6$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $\Gamma$  is obtained as Cayley graphs in two ways.

Cayley graphs are vertex transitive, indeed.

**Theorem 3.1.** *The following hold.*

(i) *For any Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \Gamma(G, \Delta)$ , the map*

$$G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Gamma) \quad (g \mapsto \hat{g})$$

is an injective homomorphism of groups, where

$$\hat{g}(x) = gx \quad \text{for all } g \in G \text{ and for all } x \in X (= G).$$

Also, the image  $\hat{G}$  is regular on  $X$ . i.e., the image  $\hat{G}$  acts transitively on  $X$  with trivial vertex stabilizers.

(ii) For any graph  $\Gamma = (X, E)$ , suppose there exists a subgroup  $G \subseteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  that is regular on  $X$ . Pick  $x \in X$ , and let

$$\Delta = \{g \in G \mid \langle x, g(x) \rangle \in E\}.$$

Then  $1 \notin \Delta$ ,  $g \in \Delta \rightarrow g^{-1} \in \Delta$ , and  $\Delta$  generates  $G$ . Moreover,  $\Gamma \simeq \Gamma(G, \Delta)$ .

*Proof.* (i) Let  $g \in G$ . We want to show that  $\hat{g} \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ . Let  $h_1, h_2 \in X = G$ . Then,

$$(h_1, h_2) \in E \rightarrow h_1^{-1}h_2 \in \Delta \quad (3.1)$$

$$\rightarrow (gh_1)^{-1}(gh_2) \in \Delta \quad (3.2)$$

$$\rightarrow (gh_1, gh_2) \in E \quad (3.3)$$

$$\rightarrow (\hat{g}(h_1), \hat{g}(h_2)) \in E. \quad (3.4)$$

Hence,  $\hat{g} \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ .

Observe:  $g \mapsto \hat{g}$  is a homomorphism of groups:

$$\hat{1}_G = 1, \widehat{g_1 g_2} = \widehat{g_1} \widehat{g_2}.$$

Observe:  $g \mapsto \hat{g}$  is one-to-one:

$$\widehat{g_1} = \widehat{g_2} \rightarrow g_1 = \widehat{g_1}(1_G) = \widehat{g_2}(1_G) = g_2.$$

Observe:  $\hat{G}$  is regular on  $X$ : Clear by construction.

(ii)  $1_G \notin \Delta$ : Since  $\Gamma$  has not loops,  $(x, 1_G x) \notin E$ .

$g \in \Delta \rightarrow g^{-1} \in \Delta$ :

$$g \in \Delta \rightarrow (x, g(x)) \in E \rightarrow E \ni (g^{-1}(x), g^{-1}(g(x))) = (g^{-1}(x), x).$$

$\Delta$  generates  $G$ : Suppose  $\langle \Delta \subsetneq G$ . Let  $\hat{X} = \{g(x) \mid g \in \langle \Delta \rangle\} \subsetneq X$ . ( $\hat{X} \subsetneq X$  as  $G$  acts regularly on  $X$ .)

Since  $\Gamma$  is connected, there exists  $y \in \hat{X}$  and  $z \in X \setminus \hat{X}$  with  $yz \in E$ .

Let  $y = g(x)$ ,  $g \in \langle \Delta \rangle$ ,  $z \in h(x)$ ,  $h \in G \setminus \langle \Delta \rangle$ . Then

$$(y, z) = (g(x), h(x)) \in E \rightarrow (x, g^{-1}h(x)) \in E \rightarrow g^{-1}h \in \langle \Delta \rangle \rightarrow h \in \langle \Delta \rangle.$$

This is a contradiction. Therefore,  $\Delta$  generates  $G$ .

Let  $\Gamma' = (X', E')$  denote  $\Gamma(G, \Delta)$ . We shall show that

$$\theta : X' \rightarrow X \ (g \mapsto g(x))$$

is an isomorphism of graphs.

$\theta$  is one-to-one: For  $h_1, h_2 \in X' = G$ ,

$$\theta(h_1) = \theta(h_2) \rightarrow h_1(x) = h_2(x) \rightarrow h_1^{-1}h_2(x) = x \rightarrow h_1^{-1}h_2 \in \text{Stab}_G(x) = \{1_G\} \rightarrow h_1 = h_2.$$

( $\text{Stab}_G = \{g \in G \mid g(x) = x\}$ .)

$\theta$  is onto: Since  $G$  is transitive,

$$X = \{g(x) \mid g \in G\} = \theta(X') = \theta(G).$$

$\theta$  respects adjacency: For  $h_1, h_2 \in X' = G$ ,

$$(h_1, h_2) \in E' \leftrightarrow h_1^{-1}h_2 \in \Delta \leftrightarrow (x, h_1^{-1}h_2(x)) \in E \leftrightarrow (h_1(x), h_2(x)) \in E \leftrightarrow (\theta(h_1), \theta(h_2)) \in E.$$

Therefore  $\theta$  is an isomorphism between graphs  $\Gamma(G, \Delta)$  and  $\Gamma(X, E)$ .  $\square$

How to compute the eigenvalues of the Cayley graph of an abelian group.

Let  $G$  be any finite abelian group. Let  $\mathbb{C}^*$  be the multiplicative group on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

**Definition 3.5.** A (linear)  $G$ -character is any group homomorphism  $\theta : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ .

**Example 3.5.**  $G = \langle a \mid a^3 = 1 \rangle$  has three characters,  $\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2$ .

$$\begin{array}{c|ccc} \theta_i(a^j) & 1 & a & a^2 \\ \hline \theta_0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \theta_1 & 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \\ \theta_2 & 1 & \omega^2 & \omega \end{array}, \quad \text{with } \omega = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}.$$

Here  $\omega$  is a primitive cube root of  $\omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^*$ , i.e.,  $1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0$ .

For arbitrary group  $G$ , let  $X(G)$  be the set of all characters of  $G$ .

Observe: For  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in X(G)$ , one can define product  $\theta_1 \theta_2$ :

$$\theta_1 \theta_2(g) = \theta_1(g) \theta_2(g) \quad \text{for all } g \in G.$$

Then  $\theta_1 \theta_2 \in X(G)$ .

Observe:  $X(G)$  with this product is an (abelian) group.

**Lemma 3.1.** *The groups  $G$  and  $X(G)$  are isomorphic for all finite abelian groups  $G$ .*

*Proof.*  $G$  is a direct sum of cyclic groups;

$$G = G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus G_m, \quad \text{where } G_i = \langle a_i \mid a_i^{d_i} = 1 \rangle \quad (1 \leq i \leq m).$$

Pick any element  $\omega_i$  of order  $d_i$  in  $\mathbb{C}^*$ , i.e., a primitive  $d_i$ -th root of 1. Define

$$\theta_i : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \quad (a_1^{\varepsilon_1} \cdots a_m^{\varepsilon_m} \mapsto \omega_i^{\varepsilon_i} \quad \text{where } 0 \leq \varepsilon_i < d_i, 1 \leq i \leq m).$$

Then  $\theta_i \in X(G)$ . (Exercise)

Claim: There exists an isomorphism of groups  $G \rightarrow X(G)$  that sends  $a_i$  to  $\theta_i$ .

Observe:  $\theta_i^{d_i} = 1$ . For every  $g = a_1^{\varepsilon_1} \cdots a_m^{\varepsilon_m} \in G$ ,

$$\theta_i^{d_i}(g) = (\theta_i(g))^{d_i} = (\omega_i^{\varepsilon_i})^{d_i} = (\omega_i^{d_i})^{\varepsilon_i} = 1.$$

Observe: If  $\theta_1^{\varepsilon_1} \theta_2^{\varepsilon_2} \cdots \theta_m^{\varepsilon_m} = 1$  for some  $0 \leq \varepsilon_i < d_i, 1 \leq i \leq m$ . Then  $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \cdots = \varepsilon_m = 0$ .

*Pf.*  $1 = \theta_1^{\varepsilon_1} \theta_2^{\varepsilon_2} \cdots \theta_m^{\varepsilon_m}(a_i) = \omega_i^{\varepsilon_i}$ , Since  $\omega_i$  is a primitive  $d_i$ -th root of 1,  $\varepsilon_i = 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

Observe:  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m$  generate  $X(G)$ . Pick  $\theta \in X(G)$ . Since  $a_i^{d_i} = 1$ ,  $1 = \theta(a_i^{d_i}) = \theta(a_i)^{d_i}$ .

Hence  $\theta(a_i) = \omega_i^{\varepsilon_i}$  for some  $\varepsilon_i$  with  $0 \leq \varepsilon_i < d_i$ .

Now  $\theta = \theta_1^{\varepsilon_1} \cdots \theta_m^{\varepsilon_m}$ , since these are both equal to  $\omega_i^{\varepsilon_i}$  at  $a_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

Therefore,

$$G \rightarrow X(G) \quad (a_i \mapsto \theta_i)$$

is an isomorphism of groups. □

**Note.** The correspondence above is clearly a group homomorphism.





## Chapter 4

# Examples

**Theorem 4.1.** *Given a Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \Gamma(G, \Delta)$ . View the standard module  $V \equiv \mathbb{C}G$  (the group algebra), so*

$$\left\langle \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g g, \sum_{g \in G} \beta_g g \right\rangle = \sum_{g \in G} \alpha_g \overline{\beta_g}, \quad \text{with } \alpha_g, \beta_g \in \mathbb{C}.$$

For any  $\theta \in X(G)$ , write

$$\hat{\theta} = \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1})g.$$

Then the following hold.

(i)  $\langle \hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2 \rangle = |G|$  if  $\theta_1 = \theta_2$  and 0 otherwise for  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in X(G)$ . In particular,  $\{\hat{\theta} \mid \theta \in X(G)\}$  forms a basis for  $V$ .

(ii)  $A\hat{\theta} = \Delta_{\theta}\hat{\theta}$  for  $\theta \in X(G)$ , where  $A$  is the adjacency matrix and

$$\Delta_{\theta} = \sum_{g \in \Delta} \theta(g).$$

In particular, the eigenvalues of  $\Gamma$  are precisely

$$\Delta_{\theta} \mid \theta \in X(G)\}.$$

*Proof.* (i) Claim: For every  $\theta \in X(G)$ , let

$$s := \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1}) = \begin{cases} |G| & \text{if } \theta = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \theta \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

*Pf.* Clear if  $\theta = 1$ .

Let  $\theta \neq 1$ . Then  $\theta(h) \neq 1$  for some  $h \in G$ .

$$s \cdot \theta(h) = \left( \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1}) \right) \theta(h) = \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1}h) = \sum_{g' \in G} \theta(g'^{-1}) = s.$$

Since  $\theta(h) \neq 1$ ,  $s = 0$ .

Claim.  $\theta(g^{-1}) = \overline{\theta(g)}$  for every  $\theta \in X(G)$  and every  $g \in G$ .

Since  $\theta(g) \in \mathbb{C}$  is a root of 1,

$$|\theta(g)|^2 = \theta(g)\overline{\theta(g)} = 1.$$

On the other hand, since  $\theta$  is a homomorphism,

$$\theta(g)\theta(g^{-1}) = \theta(1) = 1.$$

Hence  $\theta(g^{-1}) = \overline{\theta(g)}$ .

Now

$$\langle \widehat{\theta_1}, \widehat{\theta_2} \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} \theta_1(g^{-1}) \overline{\theta_2(g^{-1})} \quad (4.1)$$

$$= \sum_{g \in G} \theta_1(g^{-1}) \theta_2(g) \quad (4.2)$$

$$= \sum_{g \in G} \theta_1 \theta_2^{-1}(g^{-1}) \quad (4.3)$$

$$= \begin{cases} |G| & \text{if } \theta_1 \theta_2^{-1} = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \theta_1 \theta_2^{-1} \neq 1. \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

Since  $|G| = |X(G)|$  by Lemma 3.1, and  $\widehat{\theta_i}$ 's are orthogonal nonzero elements in  $V$ , they form a basis of  $V$ .

(ii) Let  $\Delta = \{g_1, \dots, g_r\}$ . Then

$$A\hat{\theta} = A \left( \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1}g) \right) \quad (4.5)$$

$$= \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1})(gg_1 + \cdots + gg_r) \quad (\Gamma(g) = \{gg_1, \dots, gg_r\}) \quad (4.6)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^r \left( \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g^{-1})(gg_i) \right) \quad (4.7)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^r \left( \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g_i g_i^{-1} g^{-1})(gg_i) \right) \quad (4.8)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^r \left( \sum_{g \in G} \theta(g_i) \theta((gg_i)^{-1}) gg_i \right) \quad (4.9)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^r \theta(g_i) \sum_{h \in G} \theta(h^{-1}) h \quad (4.10)$$

$$= \Delta_{\theta} \cdot \hat{\theta}. \quad (4.11)$$

Since  $\{\hat{\theta} \mid \theta \in X(G)\}$  forms a basis, the eigenvalues of  $\Gamma$  are precisely,

$$\{\Delta_{\theta} \mid \theta \in X(G)\}.$$

This completes the proof.

□

**Example 4.1.** Let  $G = \langle a \mid a^6 = 1 \rangle$ , and  $\Delta = \{a, a^{-1}\}$ . Pick a primitive 6-th root of 1,  $\omega$ . Then

$$X(G) = \{\theta^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq 5\} \quad \text{such that} \quad \theta(a) = \omega, \quad \omega + \omega^{-1} = 1.$$



$\varphi \in X(G)$	$\varphi(a)$	$\Delta_\varphi = \theta(a) + \theta(a)^{-1}$
1	1	2
$\theta$	$\omega$	$\omega + \omega^{-1} = 1$
$\theta^2$	$\omega^2$	-1
$\theta^3$	$\omega^3 = -1$	-2
$\theta^4$	$\omega^4$	-1
$\theta^5$	$\omega^5$	1

$$\text{Spec}(\Gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Example 4.2.**  $D$ -cube,  $H(D, 2)$ . Let

$$X = \{(a_1, \dots, a_D) \mid a_i \in \{1, -1\}, 1 \leq i \leq D\},$$

$$E = \{xy \mid x, y \in X, x, y: \text{different in exactly one coordinate}\}.$$

Also  $H(D, 2)$  is a Cayley graph  $\Gamma(G, \Delta)$ , where

$$G = G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \dots \oplus G_D,$$

$$G_i = \langle a_i \mid a_i^2 = 1 \rangle, \quad \Delta = \{a_1, \dots, a_D\}.$$

**Homework:** The spectrum of  $H(D, 2)$  is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_D \\ m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_D \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\theta_i = D - 2i \quad (0 \leq i \leq D), \quad m_i = \binom{D}{i}.$$

*Remark.* Let  $\theta \in X(G)$ . Then  $\theta : X \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ . If

$$\nu(\theta) = |\{i \mid \theta(a_i) = -1\}|,$$

then  $\Delta_\theta = D - 2i$ . Since there are  $\binom{D}{i}$  such  $\theta$ , we have the assertion.

We want to compute the subconstituent algebra for  $H(D, 2)$ . First, we make a few observations about arbitrary graphs.

Let  $\Gamma = (X, E)$  be any graph,  $A$ , the adjacency matrix of  $\Gamma$ , and  $V$ , the standard module over  $K = \mathbb{C}$ .

Fix a base  $x \in X$ . Write  $E_i^* = E_i^*(x)$ , and

$$T \equiv T(x) = \text{the algebra generated by } A, E_0^*, E_1^*, \dots$$

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $W$  be any irreducible  $T$ -module ( $\subseteq V$ ). Then the endpoint  $r \equiv r(W)$  satisfied

$$r = \min\{i \mid E_i^* W \neq 0\}.$$

The diameter  $d = d(W)$  satisfied

$$d = |\{i \mid E_i^* W \neq 0\}| - 1.$$

**Lemma 4.1.** *With the above notation, let  $W$  be an irreducible  $T$ -module. Then*

- (i)  $E_i^* A E_j^* = 0$  if  $|i - j| = 1$ ,  $\neq 0$  if  $|i - j| = 1$ ,  $0 \leq i, j \leq d(x)$ .
- (ii)  $A E_j^* W \subseteq E_{j-1}^* W + E_j^* W + E_{j+1}^* W$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq d(x)$ . ( $E_i^* W = 0$  if  $i < j$  or  $i > d(x)$ .)
- (iii)  $E_j^* W \neq 0$  if  $r \leq j \leq r + d$ ,  $= 0$  if  $0 \leq j \leq r$  or  $r + d < j \leq d(x)$ .
- (iv)  $E_i^* A E_j^* W \neq 0$ , if  $|i - j| = 1$  ( $r \leq i, j \leq r + d$ ).

*Proof.* (i) Pick  $y \in X$  with  $\partial(x, y) = j$ . We want to find  $E_i^* A E_j^* \hat{y}$ . Note,

$$E_j^* \hat{y} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \partial(x, y) \neq j \\ \hat{y} & \text{if } \partial(x, y) = j. \end{cases}$$

$$E_i^* A E_j^* \hat{y} = E_i^* A \hat{y} \tag{4.12}$$

$$= E_i^* \sum_{z \in X, yz \in E} \hat{z} \tag{4.13}$$

$$= \sum_{z \in X, yz \in E, \partial(x, z)=i} \hat{z} \quad (*) \tag{4.14}$$

$$= 0 \text{ if } |i - j| > 1 \text{ by triangle inequality.} \tag{4.15}$$

If  $|i - j| = 1$ , there exist  $y, y' \in X$  such that  $\partial(x, y) = j$ ,  $\partial(x, y') = i$ ,  $yy' \in E$  by connectivity of  $\Gamma$ . Hence  $(*)$  contains  $\hat{y}'$  and  $* \neq 0$ .

(ii) We have

$$A E_j^* W = \left( \sum_{i=0}^{d(x)} E_i^* \right) A E_j^* W \tag{4.16}$$

$$= E_{j-1}^* A E_j^* W + E_j^* A E_j^* W + E_{j+1}^* A E_j^* W \tag{4.17}$$

$$\subseteq E_{j-1}^* W + E_j^* W + E_{j+1}^* W. \tag{4.18}$$

(iii) Suppose  $E_j^* W = 0$  for some  $j$  ( $r \leq j \leq r + d$ ). Then  $r < j$  by the definition of  $r$ . Set

$$\tilde{W} = E_i^* W + E_{r+1}^* W + \cdots + E_{j-1}^* W.$$

Observe  $0 \subsetneq \tilde{W} \subsetneq W$ . Also  $A\tilde{W} \subseteq \tilde{W}$  by (ii) and  $E_i^*\tilde{W} \subseteq \tilde{W}$  for every  $i$  by construction.

Thus  $T\tilde{W} \subseteq \tilde{W}$ , contradicting  $W$  being irreducible.

□

## Chapter 5

# Final Words

We have finished a nice book.





# Bibliography

Charles W. Curtis, I. R. (2006). *Representation Theory of Finite Groups and Associative Algebras*. Chelsea Pub Co, uk edition. 978-1138359420.

Xie, Y. (2015). *Dynamic Documents with R and knitr*. Chapman and Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, Florida, 2nd edition. 978-0821840665.

Xie, Y. (2017). *bookdown: Authoring Books and Technical Documents with R Markdown*. Chapman and Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, Florida, 1st edition. ISBN 978-1138469280.

Yihui Xie, J.J Allaire, G. G. (2018). *R Markdown: The Definitive Guide*. Chapman and Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, Florida, 1st edition. 978-1138359420.

# Index

automorphism, 19  
bipartite, 13, 17  
Cayley graph, 19  
character, 22  
connected, 10  
distance, 10  
graph, 7  
module, 10  
path, 9  
reducible, 13  
regular, 9  
subconstituent algebra, 10  
valency, 9  
vertex transitive, 19