

THE LAPLACIAN SPECTRA OF COMMUTING GRAPHS

An approach to derive the complete list of eigenpairs of the commuting graphs from the group properties

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(Joint work with Gargi Ghosh)

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April 30, 2022



Outline

1 Fundamentals

- Graphs and Group
- Commuting Graph
- Center and Centralizer
- Matrices Associated to Graphs

2 The Laplacian spectra of Commuting Graphs

- The eigenvalue 0
- Abelian group
- Non-abelian group

Graph and Group

Group (G, \cdot)



$G \neq \emptyset$



$G \times G \rightarrow G$

$(g_1, g_2) \mapsto g_1 \cdot g_2 \in G$



Associative $(g_1 \cdot g_2) \cdot g_3 = g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot g_3)$



Identity $g \cdot e = e \cdot g = g, \forall g$



Inverse $g \cdot f = f \cdot g = e, \forall g$

Graph $\Gamma(V, E)$



Set of vertices, V



$V \neq \emptyset$



$v \in V \implies v$ is a vertex



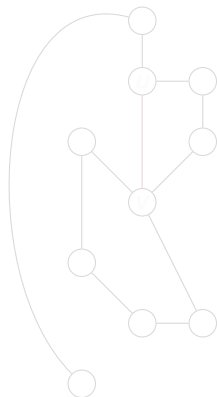
Set of edges, E



$e \in E \implies e = \{u, v\}$
for some $u, v \in V$



Each element is called an
edge.



Graph and Group

Group (G, \cdot)

☛ $G (\neq \emptyset)$

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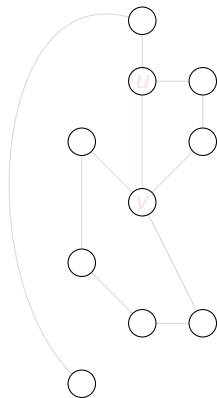
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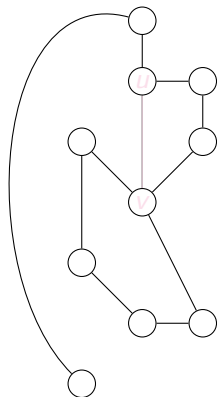
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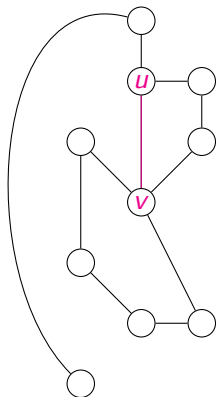


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Commuting Graph

- ☛ A finite group G .
- ☛ A graph $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is such that
 - $V = G$,
 - $E = \{(u, v) : u, v \in G \text{ and } uv = vu, v \neq u\}$.
- ☛ The graph Γ is called the **Commuting Graph** of the group G . Commuting graph is denoted by \mathcal{C}_G .

Example

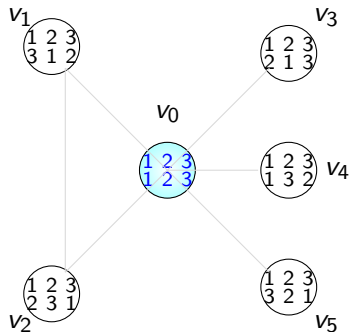


Figure: \mathcal{C}_{S_3} : Commuting Graph associated to S_3

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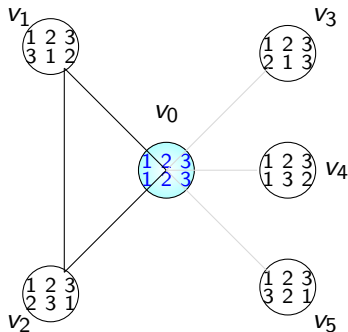


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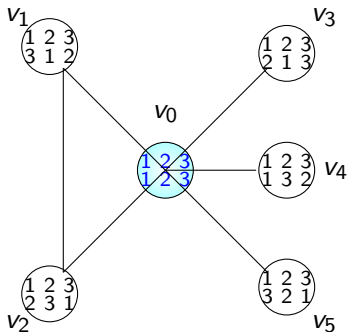


Figure: $\mathcal{C}_{\mathfrak{S}_3}$: Commuting Graph associated to \mathfrak{S}_3

Center and Centralizer

Center of the group G

$$Z(G) = \{u \in G : ua = au \forall a \in G\}.$$

Centralizer of an element

$$C(v) = \{u \in G : uv = vu\}.$$

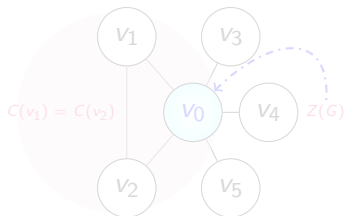


Figure: Center and Centralizer

Example

$$Z(\mathfrak{S}_3) = \{v_0\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Example

In \mathfrak{S}_3 ,

- $C(v_1) = C(v_2) = \{v_0, v_1, v_2\}$ and
- $C(v_3) = \{v_0, v_3\}$, $C(v_4) = \{v_0, v_4\}$, $C(v_5) = \{v_0, v_5\}$.

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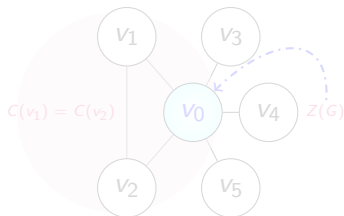


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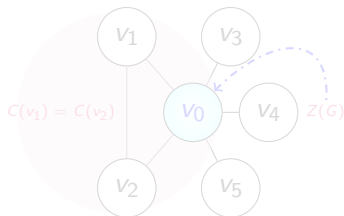


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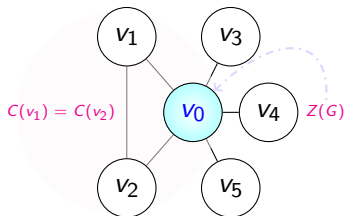


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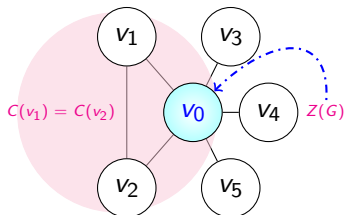


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Matrices

☛ $\Gamma(V, E)$: Any undirected graph

☛ $A = (a_{uv})_{u,v \in V}$: A square matrix of order $|V|$ defined by

$$a_{uv} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u \sim v, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

☛ $L_\Gamma = D - A$: Laplacian matrix

☛ \mathbb{R}^V : The set of all functions from V to \mathbb{R}

$$(L_\Gamma x)(u) = \sum_{v \in V} a_{uv}(x(u) - x(v)) \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^V \text{ and } u \in V.$$

☛ If $\Gamma(V, E) = C_G$: The Laplacian operator is given by

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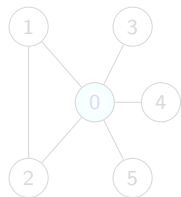


Figure: Graph G

$$L =$$

	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	5	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
1	-1	2	-1	0	0	0
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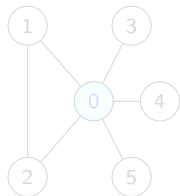


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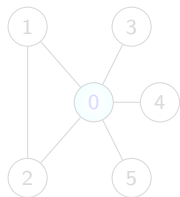


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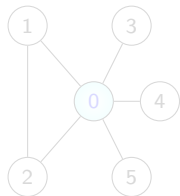


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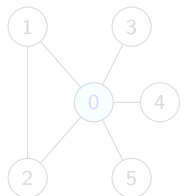


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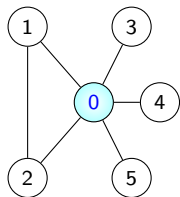


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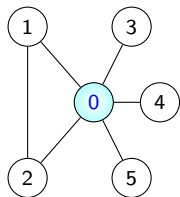


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The Constant Eigenvector

☛ $\chi_V : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by
 $\chi_V(v) = 1 \forall v \in V$.

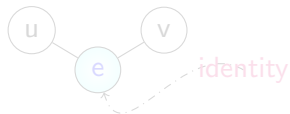
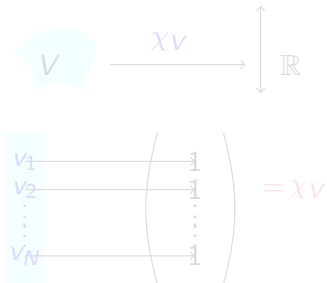
☛ $\langle \chi_V \rangle \implies$
 $\{f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f = \text{constant}\}$.

☛ $L_\Gamma \chi_V = 0$

☛ If $\Gamma(V, E)$ is connected then
 $\langle \chi_V \rangle$ is the eigenspace of the
 eigenvalue 0.

☛ \mathcal{C}_G is connected.

Therefore, 0 is an eigenvalue of L_Γ
 with the eigenspace $\langle \chi_V \rangle$.

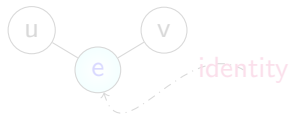
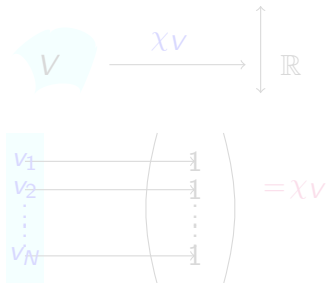


The Constant Eigenvector

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 - ☞ $\langle \chi_V \rangle \implies \{f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f = \text{constant}\}$.
 - ☞ $L_\Gamma \chi_V = 0$
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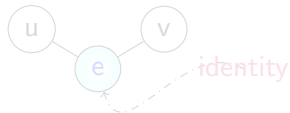
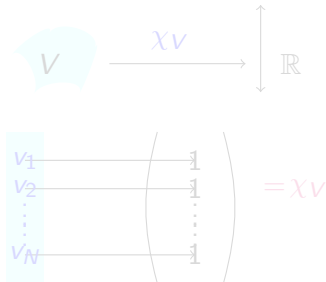


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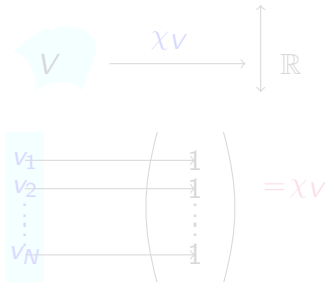
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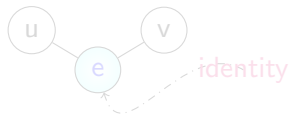


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- $\chi_V : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by
 $\chi_V(v) = 1 \forall v \in V$.
 - ☞ $\langle \chi_V \rangle \implies \{f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f = \text{constant}\}$.
 - ☞ $L_\Gamma \chi_V = 0$
 - ☞ If $\Gamma(V, E)$ is connected then $\langle \chi_V \rangle$ is the eigenspace of the eigenvalue 0.
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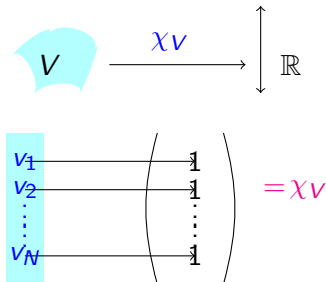


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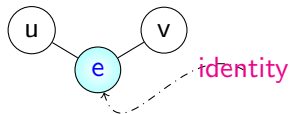


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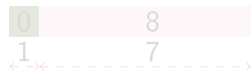
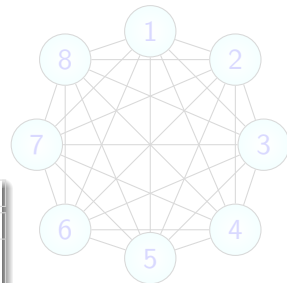
When the G is Abelian

☛ G is abelian $\implies \mathcal{C}_G = K_{|G|}$

☛ The complete list of eigenvalue and eigenvector

Eigenvalue	Eigenvector	Eigenspace
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$ G $	$y_v(u) = \begin{cases} V - 1 & \text{if } u = v, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$	$\langle \{y_v\}_{v \in V \setminus \{v_0\}} \rangle$

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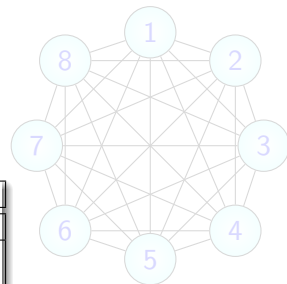
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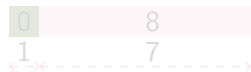
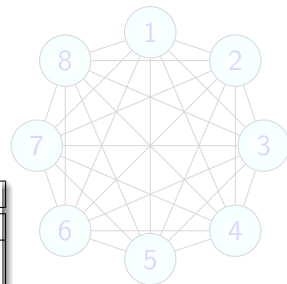
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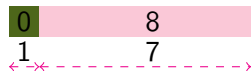
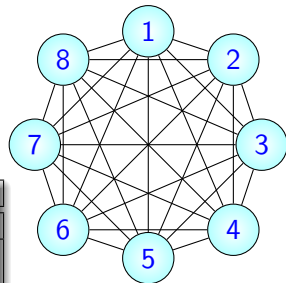
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Non-Abelian Group

Notation: $\sigma(L) =$ Set of all eigenvalues of the matrix L .

👉 **Question:** We have seen $0, |G| \in \sigma(L_{C_G})$ for any commutative group G . Is it also true for a non-commutative group?

👉 **Answer:** Yes.

Lemma

$G \implies$ a non-abelian group

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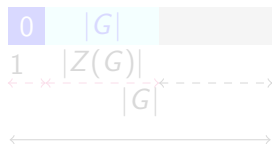


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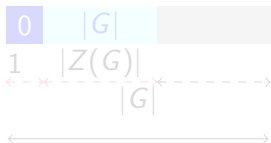


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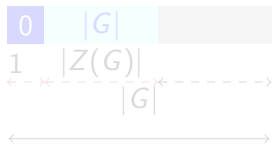


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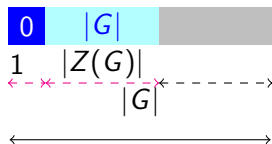


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The following result indicates another eigenvalue of L , provided a mild condition is imposed on an element of $G \setminus Z(G)$.

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$G \implies$ non-abelian finite group with $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$ such that for all $v \in G \setminus Z(G)$,

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then $|C(u)| \in \sigma(L_{C_G})$

Multiplicity: at least

$$|C(u) \setminus Z(G)| - 1.$$

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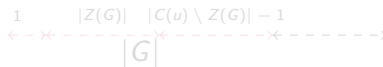


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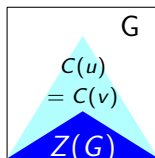
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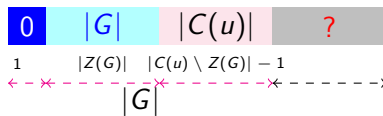
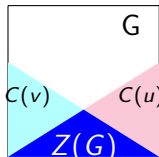


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Condition: either $C(u) = C(v)$ or $C(u) \cap C(v) = Z(G)$

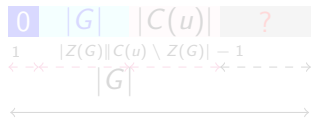
Suppose that $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$ satisfies the condition.

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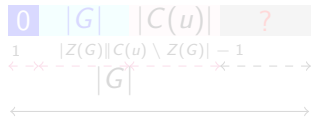
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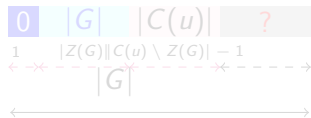
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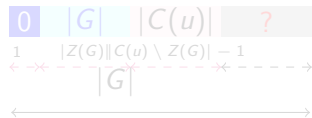
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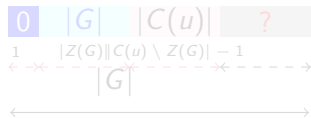
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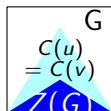


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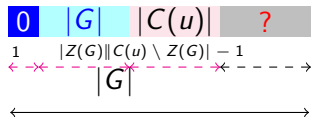
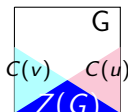
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Non-Abelian Group

Let G be a non-abelian finite group with the following property: for all $u, v \in G \setminus Z(G)$

$$\text{either } C(u) = C(v) \text{ or } C(u) \cap C(v) = Z(G). \quad (2)$$

Observation:

- ① The condition given by Equation (2) is stronger than that of Equation (1).
- ② If a group G satisfies Equation (2), each $C(u)$ is an abelian subgroup of G , for $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$.
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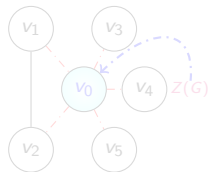
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Induced subgraph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E_G)$ of $\mathcal{C}_G = \Gamma(G, E)$

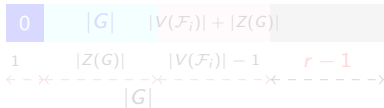
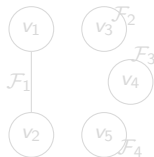
- ☛ $E = (G \setminus Z(G) \times G \setminus Z(G)) \cap E_G$.
- ☛ The graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E_G)$ is obtained by removing all the vertices $v \in Z(G)$ and corresponding edges from \mathcal{C}_G .
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Lemma

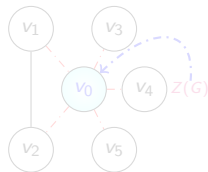
For any group G , satisfying the condition given by Equation (2), the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ is disconnected.

- ☛ Suppose that the connected components of the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ are denoted by $\{\mathcal{F}_i\}_{i=0}^{r-1}$, where $\mathcal{F}_i = (V(\mathcal{F}_i), E(\mathcal{F}_i))$.
- ☛ $V(\mathcal{F}_i) \cap V(\mathcal{F}_j) = \emptyset$, for $i \neq j$ and $G = \bigcup_{i=0}^{r-1} V(\mathcal{F}_i) \cup Z(G)$.
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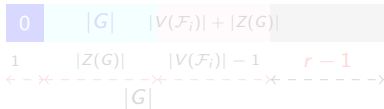
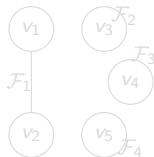
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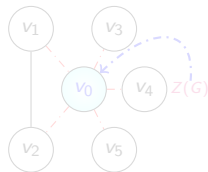
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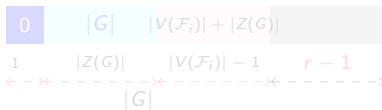
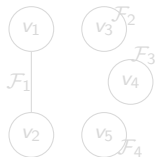
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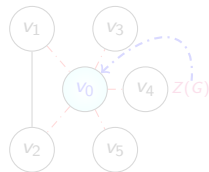
For any group G , satisfying the condition given by Equation (2), the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ is disconnected.

- ☛ Suppose that the connected components of the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ are denoted by $\{\mathcal{F}_i\}_{i=0}^{r-1}$, where $\mathcal{F}_i = (V(\mathcal{F}_i), E(\mathcal{F}_i))$.
- ☛ $V(\mathcal{F}_i) \cap V(\mathcal{F}_j) = \emptyset$, for $i \neq j$ and $G = \bigcup_{i=0}^{r-1} V(\mathcal{F}_i) \cup Z(G)$.
- ☛ $V(\mathcal{F}_i) \cup Z(G) = C(u)$.



Induced subgraph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E_G)$ of $\mathcal{C}_G = \Gamma(G, E)$

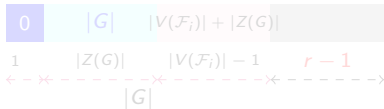
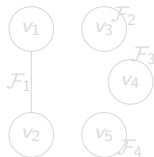
- $E = (G \setminus Z(G) \times G \setminus Z(G)) \cap E_G$.
- The graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E_G)$ is obtained by removing all the vertices $v \in Z(G)$ and corresponding edges from \mathcal{C}_G .
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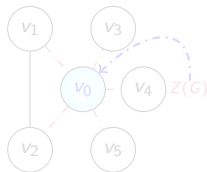
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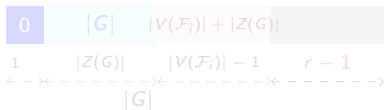
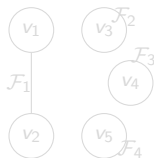
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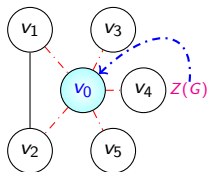
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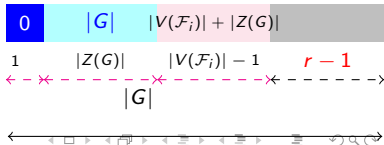
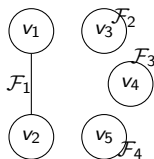
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Laplacian spectra of $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$

Remark

The Laplacian spectrum of the complete graph K_n is given by $\{0, n\}$, where the multiplicity of 0 and n are 1 and $n - 1$, respectively. Consequently, for the disjoint union of the complete graphs $\Gamma = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k K_{m_i}$, the Laplacian spectrum is given by $0, m_1, \dots, m_k$ with multiplicity $k, m_1 - 1, \dots, m_k - 1$, respectively.

Note:

- 1 Note that each \mathcal{F}_i is a complete graph K_{m_i} , where $m_i = |C(u_i)| - |Z(G)|$.
- 2 Therefore, $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{r-1} K_{m_i}$ and Laplacian spectra of $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ can be calculated by the above remark.
- 3 If the center $Z(G)$ is trivial, then the Laplacian spectrum of $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$ is discussed in [Dutta and Nath, 2018].

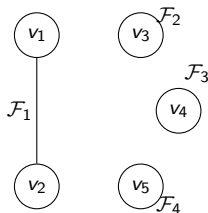


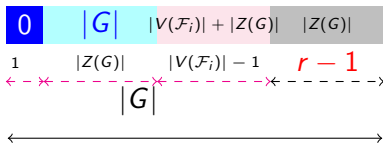
Figure: $\Gamma(\mathfrak{S}_3 \setminus Z(\mathfrak{S}_3), E)$

$$\sigma(L_\Gamma) = \{0(4), 2(1)\}$$

Non-Abelian Group

Theorem

Let G be a non-abelian group with the property described in Equation (2) and the Laplacian matrix associated to \mathcal{C}_G be denoted by L . The matrix L has an eigenvalue $|Z(G)|$ with the multiplicity at least $r - 1$, where r is the number of connected components of the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$.



▶ Back to complete Laplacian spectra

The complete Laplacian spectra of \mathcal{C}_G for non-abelian G

- 0

- 1 

- $Z(G)$

- $(r - 1)$, where $r =$ number of connected components of the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$.

- λ_i , where $|C(v)| = |C(u)| = \lambda_i$ for every $u, v \in \mathcal{F}_i$,

- $|\mathcal{F}_i| - 1$

- $|G|$

- $|Z(G)|$

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- $|G|$





- $|Z(G)|$



The complete Laplacian spectra of \mathcal{C}_G for non-abelian G

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $Z(G)$ 

Non-Abelian Group

• 0	• 1
• $Z(G)$	• $(r - 1)$, where $r =$ number of connected components of the graph $\Gamma(G \setminus Z(G), E)$.
• λ_i , where $ C(v) = C(u) = \lambda_i$ for every $u, v \in \mathcal{F}_i$,	• $ \mathcal{F}_i - 1$
• $ G $	• $ Z(G) $

 $|G|$

$$= |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=1}^r |\mathcal{F}_i|$$

$$= |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=1}^r (|\mathcal{F}_i| - 1) + r$$

$$= |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=1}^r (|\mathcal{F}_i| - 1) + (r - 1) + 1$$

Necessary conditions for being a commuting graph

Theorem

Let Γ be a graph with the Laplacian spectrum $0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_r = |G|$ with multiplicity m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r , respectively. There does not exist any finite group G (that satisfies Equation (2)) such that $\Gamma = \mathcal{C}_G$ if the Laplacian spectrum fails to satisfy any of the following conditions.

- ① The multiplicity of λ_1 is $m_1 = 1$.
- ② The number of distinct eigenvalues r is greater equal to 4.
- ③ The algebraic connectivity of Γ is the multiplicity of the largest eigenvalue, that is, $\lambda_2 = m_r$.
- ④ The algebraic connectivity λ_2 divides λ_j for all $j = 2, 3, \dots, r$.
- ⑤ The cardinality of the set of vertices $\sum_{i=1}^r m_i = \lambda_r$.
- ⑥ Any nonzero eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix of Γ divides the largest eigenvalue λ_r .
- ⑦ Each λ_i is a non-negative integer for all $i = 1, \dots, r$.

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 0 & |G| & |V(\mathcal{F}_i)| + |Z(G)| & |Z(G)| \\
 1 & |Z(G)| & |V(\mathcal{F}_i)| - 1 & r - 1 \\
 \leftarrow \text{---} \times \text{---} \times \text{---} \times \text{---} \rightarrow & & & \\
 & |G| & &
 \end{array}$$

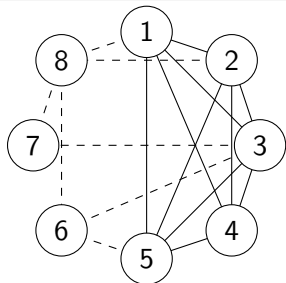
Graph Invariants for Commuting Graphs

Definition

A **clique** S in a graph $\Gamma(V, E)$ is a subset $S \subseteq V$ such that any two distinct vertices $v_1, v_2 \in S$ are adjacent to each other. The cardinality of the maximum clique is called the **clique number**, $\omega(\Gamma)$.

Clearly, $\omega(\mathcal{C}_G) = |G|$, whenever G is an abelian group. For any non-abelian group G we have the following.

- ✦ if $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$ then $C(u)$ is a clique in \mathcal{C}_G .
- ✦ $\omega(\mathcal{C}_G) = \max_{u \in G \setminus Z(G)} |C(u)|$.



Clique Number

Since $|C(u)|$ is an eigenvalue of L_{C_G} for all $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$,

Proposition

If G is a non-abelian group satisfying Equation 2, then the clique number $\omega(C_G)$ is given by

- (i) the second largest eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix of the commuting graph C_G , if $C(G) \supsetneq Z(G)$ and*
 - (ii) $|Z(G)| + 1$, if $Z(G) = C(G)$,*
- where $C(G) = \{v \in G : d(v) - |Z(G)| > 0\}$.*

Mean distance and Graph diameter

- ✎ The distance between two vertices of a graph is the number of edges in a shortest path connecting them.
- ✎ The graph distance matrix is the square matrix $(\gamma_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{|G|}$.
- ✎ γ_{ij} = The distance between the vertices v_i and v_j .
- ✎ The diameter of the graph is the maximum element of the graph distance matrix.
- ✎ The mean distance is the average of all elements of the graph distance matrix.
- ✎ We have proved that

$$\text{The mean distance of } \mathcal{C}_G = \frac{2|G|^2 - 2|G| - \sum_{v \in G} d(v)}{|G|^2}.$$

Separation Problems

Definition

[Cvetković et al., 2010, p. 199] Let $\Gamma(V, E)$ be a graph. For any $S \subset V$, the collection of all the edges that contains vertices from both the sets S and S^c ($= V \setminus S$) are called the *edge boundary of the set S* . The edge boundary of S is denoted by ∂S .

In the next result we give a range of $\frac{|\partial S|}{|S||S^c|}$.

Proposition

Let G be a non-abelian group with the property described in Equation (2) and \mathcal{C}_G be the commuting graph associated to the group G . For any $S \subset G$, the edge boundary ∂S of S in the graph \mathcal{C}_G satisfies the following inequality:

$$\frac{|Z(G)|}{|G|} \leq \frac{|\partial S|}{|S||S^c|} \leq 1,$$

where $S^c = G \setminus S$.

Bipartition Width

The *bipartition width* of a graph $\Gamma(V, E)$ is $bw(G) := \min\{|\partial S| : S \subset V, |S| = \lfloor \frac{|V|}{2} \rfloor\}$, where $\lfloor \frac{|V|}{2} \rfloor$ is the greatest integer less than $\frac{|V|}{2}$, see [Cvetković et al., 2010, p. 200]. Then, the next result is an immediate consequence of Proposition 2.

Corollary

If G be a non-abelian group with the property described in Equation (2) then

$$bw(C_G) \geq \begin{cases} \frac{|G||Z(G)|}{4}, & \text{if } |G| \text{ is even,} \\ \frac{(|G|^2-1)|Z(G)|}{4|G|}, & \text{if } |G| \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

A Lemma

Lemma

Let G be a non-abelian group and C_G be the commuting graph of G and S be a subset of G .

A. If S satisfies any one of the following conditions, then $\frac{|\partial S|}{|S|} \geq |Z(G)|$.

- ① $S \subset G$ be such that $S \cap Z(G) = \emptyset$,
- ② $Z(G) \subseteq S$ with $0 < |S| \leq \frac{|G|}{2}$,
- ③ $Z(G) \supseteq S$ with $0 < |S| \leq \frac{|G|}{2}$.

B. Moreover, suppose that $S \cap Z(G) \neq \emptyset$ and $Z(G) \setminus S \neq \emptyset$, then

$$|\partial S| = |S||Z(G)| + |Z(G) \cap S|(|G| - 2|S| - |Z(G) \setminus S|) + \sum_{u \in S \setminus Z(G)} |\mathcal{F}_u \setminus S|,$$

where $\mathcal{F}_u = C(u) \setminus Z(G)$ for an element $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$.

Isoperimetric Number

- We recall the definition of *isoperimetric number* $i(\Gamma)$ of a graph $\Gamma(V, E)$ following [Cvetković et al., 2010, p. 205]. The isoperimetric number $i(\Gamma)$ is given by

$$i(\Gamma) := \min_{0 < |S| < \frac{|V|}{2}} \frac{|\partial S|}{|S|}. \quad (3)$$

- If Γ is a graph, except the complete graph K_n with order $n = 1, 2, 3$, then in [Mohar, 1989, p. 283, Theorem 4.1, Theorem 4.2] a range for $i(\Gamma)$ is given and that is

$$\frac{\lambda_2}{2} \leq i(\Gamma) \leq \sqrt{\lambda_2(2\Delta - \lambda_2)},$$

where λ_2 is the second least element of the Laplacian spectrum of Γ and Δ is the maximum degree of vertex in Γ .

Isoperimetric Number of C_G

Proposition

If G be a non-abelian group with the property described in Equation (2) then

$$\frac{|Z(G)|}{2} \leq i(C_G) \leq \sqrt{|Z(G)|(2(|G| - 1) - |Z(G)|)}.$$

Theorem

Let G be a finite group. Then the following hold:

- A. If G is abelian, then $i(C_G) = \lceil \frac{|G|}{2} \rceil$, where $\lceil \frac{|G|}{2} \rceil$ denotes the least integer greater than $\frac{|G|}{2}$.
- B. If G is a non-abelian group that satisfies Equation (2).
 - ① If G has a trivial center, then $i(C_G) = 1$.
 - ② Suppose $|Z(G)| = 2$. If $|C(u) \setminus Z(G)| = l$ for all $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$, where $l < \frac{|G|}{2}$ and l does not divide $\frac{|G|}{2} - 1$, then $i(C_G) = 2$.

Thank You

Proof..

Lemma

$G \implies a$
non-abelian
group

⬅ $0 \in \sigma(L_{C_G})$
Multiplicity
 $= 1$
Eigenvector
 $= \chi_V =$
 $(1, \dots, 1)^t$

⬅ $|G| \in$
 $\sigma(L_{C_G})$
Multiplicity
at least
 $|Z(G)|$.

☞ The graph C_G is connected.
Therefore, the first part
follows.

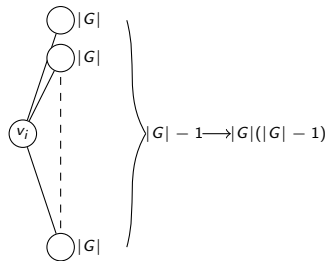
☞ For the 2nd part, we
enumerate
 $Z(G) = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. For
each $v_i \in Z(G)$, we
consider $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^V$ defined as

$$y_i(v) = \begin{cases} |G| - 1 & \text{if } v = v_i, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

☞ $L_{C_G} y_i = |G| y_i$ and $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^m$
is linearly independent.

▶ back

$$(L_{C_G} y_i)(u) = \sum_{v \in V} a_{uv} (y_i(u) - y_i(v)).$$



Reason...

There exists at least one $v \in G$, other than u , such that $v \notin Z(G)$ and $C(u) \cap C(v) = Z(G)$.

If not, arguing by contradiction, it follows from Equation (1) that $C(u) = C(v)$ for every $v \in G \setminus Z(G)$. Equivalently, $u \in C(v)$ for every $v \in G$. That is, $C(u) = G$ which is a contradiction to the assumption $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$. [▶ back](#)

Reason...

$C(v) = C(u)$ for all $v \in C(u) \setminus Z(G)$.

- ✎ Either $C(u) = C(v)$ or $C(u) \cap C(v) = Z(G)$.
- ✎ $v \in C(u) \setminus Z(G) \implies v \in C(u) \cap C(v)$
- ✎ Since, $v \notin Z(G)$ and $v \in C(u) \cap C(v)$, therefore, $C(u) \cap C(v) \neq Z(G)$.
- ✎ Therefore, $C(v) = C(u)$

▶ back

Reason...




$C(u)$ is an **abelian** subgroup of G , whenever $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$ satisfies Equation (1).

Suppose that $x, y \in C(u)$ then the following possibilities arise:

1. If one of x or y belongs to $Z(G)$, then $xy = yx$.
2. If $x, y \notin Z(G)$ then $x \in (C(u) \cap C(x)) \setminus Z(G)$ and $y \in (C(u) \cap C(y)) \setminus Z(G)$. By Equation (2), $C(x) = C(u) = C(y)$ and hence $xy = yx$.

Therefore, $C(u)$ is an **abelian** subgroup of G , for $u \in G \setminus Z(G)$ satisfies Equation (2). [▶ back](#)

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