

# Groups and Graphs

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# Different Types of Graphs on Groups

Cayley Graphs

Power Graphs

Enhanced Power Graph

(Non)Commuting Graph

(Non)Generating Graph

9



Vertices are group elements

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Intersection Graph of Group

Co-Maximal Subgroup Graph

Vertices are group elements

Vertices are subgroups

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Cayley Graphs

Power Graphs

Enhanced Power Graph

(Non)Commuting Graph

(Non)Generating Graph

$G$

$\cong$

$\cong$

$G$

$\cong$

$\mathcal{S}$

Vertices are group elements

Intersection Graph of Group

Co-Maximal Subgroup Graph

Vertices are subgroups

P.J. Cameron, *Graphs defined on Groups*, International Journal of Group Theory, 11(2), pp. 53-107, 2022.

# Comaximal Subgroup Graph (Akbari *et.al.*<sup>1</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> S. Akbari, B. Miraftab and R. Nikandish, **Co-maximal Graphs of Subgroups of Groups**, **Canadian Math Bulletin**, Vol. 60(1), pp.12-25, 2017.

## Definition

Let  $G$  be a group and  $S$  be the collection of all non-trivial proper subgroups of  $G$ . The co-maximal subgroup graph  $\Gamma(G)$  of a group  $G$  is defined to be a graph with  $S$  as the set of vertices and two distinct vertices  $H$  and  $K$  are adjacent if  $HK = G$ .

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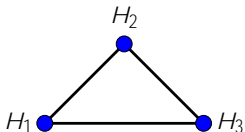
Although the definition of comaximal subgroup graph allows the possibility of  $G$  being infinite, in this talk, we restrict ourselves to finite groups only. The definition implies that the graph is undirected as  $HK = G$  if and only if  $KH = G$ .

# Examples

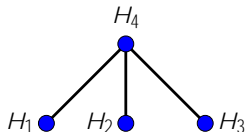
Consider the Klein-4 group,  $K_4$ . Then

$S = fH_1 = fe; ag; H_2 = fe; bg; H_3 = fe; abgg$  See Figure (A).

Next, consider the group  $S_3$ . Then  $S = fH_1 = fe; (12)g; H_2 = fe; (13)g; H_3 = fe; (23)g; H_4 = fe; (123); (132)gg$  See Figure (B).



(A) ( $K_4$ )



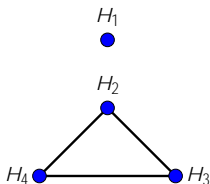
(B) ( $S_3$ )

Figure: Examples of  $\Gamma(G)$  (Connected Examples)

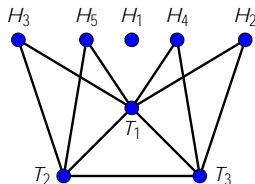
# Examples (Contd.)

Consider  $Q_8 = \langle a, b : a^4 = e; a^2 = b^2; ba = a^3bi \rangle$ . Then  
 $S = fH_1 = ha^2i; H_2 = hai; H_3 = habi; H_4 = hbig$  See Figure (A).

Consider  $D_4 = \langle a, b : a^4 = e; b^2 = e; ba = a^3bi \rangle$ . Then  
 $S = fH_1 = ha^2i; H_2 = hbi; H_3 = habi; H_4 = ha^2bi; H_5 = ha^3bi; T_1 = hai; T_2 = fe; a^2; b; a^2bg; T_3 = fe; ab; a^2; a^3bgg$  See Figure (B).



(A) ( $Q_8$ )



(B) ( $D_4$ )

Figure: Examples of  $\Gamma(G)$  (Disconnected Examples)



## Definition

A group  $G$  is said to be *solvable* if there exists a subnormal series  $H_0 \subset H_1 \subset \dots \subset H_{s-1} \subset H_s = G$  such that each quotient group  $H_{i+1}/H_i$  is abelian and each  $H_i$  is normal in  $H_{i+1}$ .

## Definition

A group  $G$  is said to be *supersolvable* if there exists a normal series  $H_0 \subset H_1 \subset \dots \subset H_{s-1} \subset H_s = G$  such that each quotient group  $H_{i+1}/H_i$  is cyclic and each  $H_i$  is normal in  $G$ .

## Definition

A group  $G$  is said to be *nilpotent* if there exists a normal series  $H_0 \subset H_1 \subset \dots \subset H_{s-1} \subset H_s = G$  such that each quotient group  $H_{i+1}/H_i \cong Z(G/H_i)$  and each  $H_i$  is normal in  $G$ .

## Theorem

*If  $G$  is a finite solvable group, then every maximal subgroup of  $G$  is of prime-power index in  $G$ .  
at least one maximal subgroup is normal in  $G$ .*

## Theorem

*If  $G$  is a finite nilpotent group, then every maximal subgroup of  $G$  is normal in  $G$  and is of prime index.  
every Sylow subgroup is normal in  $G$ .  
 $G$  is the direct product of its Sylow subgroups.*

# When is $\Gamma(G)$ connected?

## Theorem (Akbari, Miraftab, Nikandish)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group with at least two non-trivial proper subgroups.  
Then TFAE:*

*$\Gamma(G)$  is connected.*

*$\Gamma(G)$  has no isolated vertex.*

*$\text{diam}(\Gamma(G)) \leq 3$ .*

*$G$  is supersolvable and its Sylow subgroups are all elementary abelian.*

## Definition

The *Frattini subgroup* of a group  $G$ , denoted by  $\Phi(G)$  is the intersection of all maximal subgroups of  $G$ .

# Isolated vertices of $\Gamma(G)$

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## Theorem (-, Saha, Alkaseasbeh)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $|G/\Phi(G)| \neq 1$ , then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex. If  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex if  $|G/\Phi(G)| \neq 1$ .*

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## Key Point

Maximal subgroups are normal.

# Isolated vertices of $\Gamma(G)$

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Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $j\Phi(G)j \neq 1$ , then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex. If  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex if  $j\Phi(G)j \neq 1$ .

## Remark (Solvability is not enough)

If  $G$  is not nilpotent,  $j\Phi(G)j = 1$  does not imply  $\Gamma(G)$  is isolate-free. For example,  $A_4$  is not nilpotent and  $\Phi(A_4)$  is trivial. But  $\Gamma(A_4)$  is the disjoint union of a star  $K_{1,4}$  and three isolated vertices.

# Isolated vertices of $\Gamma(G)$

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## Remark (Super-Solvability is also not enough)

Let  $G = \langle a, b : a^5 = b^4 = 1, ab = ba^2 \rangle$  (**Frobenius Group of order 20**).  $G$  is supersolvable and  $|j\Phi(G)j| = 1$ , but it has five isolated vertices.



# Isolated vertices of $\Gamma(G)$

## Definition

The *Frattini subgroup* of a group  $G$ , denoted by  $\Phi(G)$  is the intersection of all maximal subgroups of  $G$ .

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Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $|G/\Phi(G)| \neq 1$ , then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex. If  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an isolated vertex if  $|G/\Phi(G)| \neq 1$ .

Under what condition,  $|G/\Phi(G)| = 1$ , no isolated vertices?

Nilpotent Groups

Super-Solvable Groups

Solvable Groups

# Only Isolated Vertices

## Theorem (-, Saha, Alkaseasbeh)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $G$  is a cyclic  $p$ -group, then  $\Gamma(G)$  has no edges. If  $G$  is a solvable group, then  $\Gamma(G)$  has no edges if  $G$  is a cyclic  $p$ -group.*

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### Sketch of Proof:

As  $G$  is solvable, by a theorem of Hall,  $\exists$  a Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $H$  and Hall  $p'$ -subgroup  $K$  such that  $G = HK$  and  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .

Thus  $K$  is trivial and  $|G| = p^n$ .

$\exists N \subset G$  such that  $|N| = p^{n-1}$ .

Choose  $g \in G \setminus N$  and  $A = \langle g \rangle$ .

If  $A$  is a proper subgroup of  $G$ , we have  $A \subset N$ . Thus  $A = G$ .

# Only Isolated Vertices

## Theorem (-, Saha, Alkaseasbeh)

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**Remark** The solvability is necessary for the converse part, since if  $G = \text{PSL}(2; 13)$ , then  $\Gamma(G)$  consists only of isolated vertices.

# Only Isolated Vertices

## Theorem (-, Saha)

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**Note:** If  $\Gamma(G)$  is edgeless and  $\Phi(G)$  is trivial, then  $G$  is simple.  
if  $H \subset G$ , then  $H \not\subset M$  for some maximal subgroup  $M$  of  $G$  and  $H \not\subset M$ !

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$\Gamma(G)$  is edgeless,  $G$  has no factorization

,  $G \not\subset HK$  for any two maximal subgroups of  $G$

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,  $G \not\subset HK$  for any two maximal subgroups of  $G$   
,  $[G : H] > [K : H \cap K]$

As  $\Phi(G)$  is contained in all maximal subgroups of  $G$ ,  $G$  has no factorization into maximal subgroups  
,  $G = \Phi(G)$  has no factorization, i.e.,  $\Gamma(G = \Phi(G))$  is edgeless.



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As  $G = \Phi(G)$  has trivial Frattini subgroup,  $G = \Phi(G)$  is simple.

**Remark:** If  $\Gamma(G)$  is edgeless, then  $G = \Phi(G)$  is simple. Now, two cases may arise:

If  $G = \Phi(G)$  is prime order cyclic group, then  $G$  is a cyclic  $p$ -group.

If  $G = \Phi(G)$  is a non-abelian simple group with no factorization, then  $G = \Phi(G)$  is isomorphic to one of the groups without factorization studied by Liebeck *et.al.*

M.W. Liebeck, C.E. Praeger and J. Saxl, *The maximal factorizations of the finite simple groups and their automorphism groups*, Memoirs Amer. Math. Soc. 86, pp.1-151, 1990.

## Theorem (-, Saha, Alkaseasbeh)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $G$  has a maximal subgroup which is normal in  $G$ . Then  $\Gamma(G)$  is connected apart from some possible isolated vertices and the diameter of the component is less than or equal to 4.*

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Let  $H$  be a maximal subgroup of  $G$  with  $H \triangleleft G$   
and  $L$  be another maximal subgroup of  $G$ .

$H \not\subseteq L$ , i.e.,  $H$  is not an isolated vertex in  $\Gamma(G)$ .

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$H \not\subseteq L$ , i.e.,  $H$  is not an isolated vertex in  $\Gamma(G)$ .

Let  $C_1$  be the component of  $\Gamma(G)$  which contains  $H$ . If possible, let there exists another component  $C_2$  of  $\Gamma(G)$  and  $H^0 \cap K^0$  in  $C_2$ .

At least one of  $H^0$  and  $K^0$  is not contained in  $H$ . Let  $H^0 \not\subseteq H$ . Then  $H \cap H^0$  in  $\Gamma(G)$

# Ignoring the isolated vertices

## Proof Continued:

If  $H$  is the unique maximal subgroup, then  $G/H$  is a cyclic group, and  $(G/H)$  is empty. So, we assume that  $G$  has maximal subgroups other than  $H$ .

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If  $H$  is the unique maximal subgroup, then  $G/H$  is a cyclic group, and  $(G/H)$  is empty. So, we assume that  $H$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$ , apart from  $H$ .

Let  $A, B$  be two arbitrary vertices of the component.

If  $A, B \notin H$ , then we have  $A \sim H \sim B$ , i.e.,  $d(A, B) = 2$ .



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Let  $A, B$  be two arbitrary vertices of the component.

If  $A, B \in H$ , then we have  $A \sim H \sim B$ , i.e.,  $d(A; B) = 2$ .

$A \in H$  and  $B \notin H$ , then as  $B$  is not an isolated vertex  $B \in M$ , for some maximal subgroup  $M \neq H$ . Thus  $B \sim M \sim H \sim A$ , i.e.,  $d(A; B) = 3$ .

# Ignoring the isolated vertices

## Proof Continued:

If  $H$  is the unique maximal subgroup, then  $G$  is a cyclic  $p$ -group, and  $\Gamma(G)$  is empty. So, we assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  maximal subgroups of  $G$ , apart from  $H$ .

Let  $A; B$  be two arbitrary vertices of the component.

If  $A; B \notin H$ , then we have  $A \in H \cap B$ , i.e.,  $d(A; B) = 2$ .

$A \notin H$  and  $B \in H$ , then as  $B$  is not an isolated vertex,  $B \in M$ , for some maximal subgroup  $M \notin H$ . Thus  $B \in M \cap H \cap A$ , i.e.,  $d(A; B) = 3$ .

If  $A; B \in H$ . Clearly  $A \notin B$ . As  $A; B$  are not isolated vertices, there exist maximal subgroups  $M_A; M_B$  such that  $M_A; M_B \notin H$  and  $A \in M_A$  and  $B \in M_B$ .

If  $M_A = M_B$ , then  $A \in M_A \cap B$ . If  $M_A \neq M_B$ , then  $A \in M_A \cap H \cap M_B \cap B$ , i.e.,  $d(A; B) = 4$ .

## Theorem (-, Saha, Alkaseasbeh)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $G$  has a maximal subgroup which is normal in  $G$ . Then  $\Gamma(G)$  is connected apart from some possible isolated vertices and the diameter of the component is less than or equal to 4.*

Find a group  $G$ , for which the component has diameter 4.

# Ignoring the isolated vertices

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## Corollary

*Let  $G$  be a finite solvable group. Then  $\Gamma(G)$  is connected apart from some possible isolated vertices.*

## Theorem

*If  $G$  is nilpotent, the diameter of the component is less than or equal to 3.*

# Deleted Co-Maximal Subgroup Graph

## Definition

Let  $G$  be a group. The deleted co-maximal subgroup graph of  $G$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(G)$ , is defined as the graph obtained by removing the isolated vertices from  $\Gamma(G)$ .

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## Remark

There exists groups like  $S_n$  with  $n \geq 5$  which are not solvable but has a maximal subgroup  $A_n$  which is normal in  $S_n$ . Thus there exists finite non-solvable groups  $G$  such that  $\Gamma(G)$  is connected.

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## Remark

There exists simple groups like  $A_n$  with  $n \geq 5$  which does not have any maximal subgroup which is normal in  $A_n$ . But  $\Gamma(A_5)$  is a connected graph of order 17.



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## Question:

Does there exist a finite non-solvable group  $G$  such that  $\Gamma(G)$  is non-empty and disconnected?

# Domination number of $\Gamma(G)$

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a finite group. Then  $\Gamma(G)$  has an **universal vertex** if and only if either  $G$  is non-cyclic abelian group of order  $p^2$  or  $G$  is group of order  $pq$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct primes.

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a finite nilpotent group. Then  $\delta(\Gamma(G)) = 2$  if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to one of the groups:  $Z_{p^3}; Z_{p^2q}; Z_{p^2}; Z_p; M_{p^3}; D_4; Q_8; SD_8$ .

# Bipartiteness and Girth of $\Gamma(G)$

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a finite nilpotent group. Then  $\Gamma(G)$  is bipartite if and only if  $G$  is a cyclic group of order  $p^a$  or  $p^a q^b$ , where  $p, q$  are distinct primes.

## Theorem

Let  $G$  be a finite nilpotent group. Then

$$\text{girth}(\Gamma(G)) = \begin{cases} 8 & \\ < 1; & \text{if } G = Z_{p^a} \text{ or } Z_{p^a q}; \text{ where } a \geq 1 \\ 4; & \text{if } G = Z_{p^a q^b}; \text{ where } a, b \geq 2 \\ 3; & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The **clique number**,  $\omega(G)$ , of a graph  $G$  is the size of a maximum complete subgraph of  $G$ .

The **chromatic number**,  $\chi(G)$ , of a graph  $G$  is the minimum number of colours required to color the vertices such that adjacent vertices receive distinct colours.

# Colouring (G)

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The **chromatic number**,  $\chi(G)$ , of a graph  $G$  is the minimum number of colours required to color the vertices such that adjacent vertices receive distinct colours.

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A graph  $G$  is said to be **weakly perfect** if  $\chi(G) = \omega(G)$ .

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As no two of them are contained in any maximal subgroup, WLOG, we can assume each  $H_i$  to be maximal subgroups, i.e.  $|\text{Max}(G)| \geq l$ .

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Assign the colour  $i$  to  $M_i$  and all of its subgroups which have not been coloured previously. Repeat this process.

All subgroups receive some colour and it forms a proper colouring, i.e.,  $\Gamma(G) \cong \Gamma(\Gamma(G))$ .

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# Colouring $\Gamma(G)$

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When is  $\Gamma(G)$  perfect?

# When $\Gamma(G)$ is perfect

$\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is perfect iff number of distinct prime factors of  $n$  is  $\geq 4$ .

$\Gamma(D_n)$  is perfect iff one of the two conditions hold:

$n$  is odd and  $\omega(n) \geq 4$ .

$n$  is even and either  $\omega(n) \geq 2$  or  $\omega(n) = 3$  and  $4 \mid n$ .

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Characterize  $G$  for which  $\Gamma(G)$  is perfect?

# Why Isolated Vertices are Important?

Let  $G$  be a group such that  $\Gamma(G)$  has isolated vertices. A natural question arises whether there always exists a group  $H$  such that  $\Gamma(G) = \Gamma(H)$ .

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Let  $G = Z_{p^2q^2}$  where  $p, q$  are distinct primes. Then  $\Gamma(G) = C_4 \square 3K_1$  and  $\Gamma(G) = C_4$ . We look for a group  $H$  such that  $\Gamma(H) = C_4$ .

There does not exist any finite group  $H$  such that  $\Gamma(H) = C_4$ .

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If we can not get the group  $G$  uniquely from  $(G)$ , can we get **some information** about the group  $G$  from the graph?

Are there any class of groups  $G$ , for which we can uniquely get the group  $G$  from its graph?

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The **independence number**  $\alpha(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the size of a maximum subset of vertices in which no two are adjacent.

## Lemma (Saha)

Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $\alpha(\Gamma(G)) \geq 8$ . Then  $G$  is solvable.

# Identifying Groups from Graphs

## Theorem (-, Saha)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $\Gamma(G) = \Gamma(Q_8)$ , then  $G = Q_8$ .*

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Let  $G$  be a finite group such that  $\Gamma(G) = \Gamma(A_4)$ , then  $G = A_4$  or  $Z_{p^4}q$ , where  $p; q$  are distinct primes.

## Definition

Two positive integers  $n$  and  $m$  are said to be of same prime-factorization type if  $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \dots p_k^{e_k}$  and  $m = q_1^{e_1} q_2^{e_2} \dots q_k^{e_k}$  where  $p_i, q_i$ 's are primes and there exists  $\sigma \in S_k$  such that  $p_i = q_{\sigma(i)}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ .



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## Theorem (-, Biswas, Saha)

Let  $n$  and  $m$  be two integers. Then  $\Gamma(Z_n) = \Gamma(Z_m)$  if and only if  $m$  and  $n$  are of same prime-factorization type.

# Isomorphic Graphs

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Let  $n$  and  $m$  be two integers. If  $(D_n) \cong (D_m)$ , then  $m$  and  $n$  are of same prime-factorization type.

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Which groups  $G$  are uniquely determined by  $G$ ?



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