

# On finite of 2-arc-transitive Graphs

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# Definitions

All graphs here are finite, simple, connected and undirected. Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph with vertex set  $V\Gamma$  and edge set  $E\Gamma$ .

For a vertex  $\alpha \in V\Gamma$  and a group  $G$  of  $\Gamma$ ,

**neighborhood:**  $\Gamma(\alpha) = \{\gamma \in V\Gamma \mid \{\alpha, \gamma\} \in E\Gamma\}$ ,

**vertex-stabilizer:**  $G_\alpha = \{g \in G \mid \alpha^g = \alpha\}$ ,

**arc-stabilizer:**  $G_{\alpha\beta} = G_\alpha \cap G_\beta, \beta \in \Gamma(\alpha)$ .

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An **automorphism** of  $\Gamma$  is a permutation  $\pi$  on  $V\Gamma$  s.t.  
 $\{u, v\} \in E\Gamma \Leftrightarrow \{u^\pi, v^\pi\} \in E\Gamma$ .

All automorphisms of  $\Gamma$  form a permutation group on  $V\Gamma$ , called **the full automorphism group** of  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ .

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Frucht theorem (Frucht, Composition Math.1938)

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Almost all graphs have the trivial automorphism group (see (Blollobás, Random Graphs, 1985)).

# Definitions

Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph. An  $(s + 1)$ -sequence  $(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$  of vertices of  $\Gamma$  is called an **s-arc** if  $\{\alpha_{i-1}, \alpha_i\} \in E\Gamma$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s$  and  $\alpha_{i-1} \neq \alpha_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s - 1$ .



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Denote by  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  the full automorphism group of the graph  $\Gamma$ , and a subgroup  $G$  of  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  is called a group of  $\Gamma$ . A group  $G$  of  $\Gamma$  is called

- vertex-transitive:**  $G$  acts transitively on  $V\Gamma$ ,
- edge-transitive:**  $G$  acts transitively on  $E\Gamma$ ,
- arc-transitive:**  $G$  acts transitively on arcs,
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**locally transitive:**  $G_\alpha$  acts transitively on  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  for all  $\alpha \in V\Gamma$ ,

**locally primitive:**  $G_\alpha$  acts primitively on  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  for all  $\alpha \in V\Gamma$ .

# Definitions

## Normal quotients and covers:

Let  $\Gamma$  be a connected graph,  $G$  be locally primitive on  $\Gamma$ ,  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Suppose that  $N$  is intransitive on every  $G$ -orbit and has at least 3 orbits on  $V\Gamma$ . Write  $\bar{\alpha} = \alpha^N$  for  $\alpha \in V\Gamma$ . Let  $V\Gamma_N = \{\bar{\alpha} | \alpha \in V\Gamma\}$ , and  $\bar{G} := G^{V\Gamma_N}$ .

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- $N$  is semiregular on  $V\Gamma$ ,  $\bar{G} \cong G/N$ .
- $G_{\bar{\alpha}} = N \rtimes G_{\alpha}$ , yielding  $\bar{G}_{\bar{\alpha}} \cong G_{\alpha}$ .
- $[\bar{\alpha}]_{\Gamma}$  is empty,  $[\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta}]_{\Gamma}$  is either empty or a perfect matching.

# Definitions

- $\Gamma_N = (V\Gamma_N, E\Gamma_N)$ ,  $E\Gamma_N = \{\{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta}\} \mid \{\alpha, \beta\} \in E\Gamma\}$ , called a normal quotient of  $\Gamma$ . The graph  $\Gamma$  is a cover of  $\Gamma_N$ , called a normal cover of  $\Gamma_N$ .

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$\alpha$  and  $\bar{\alpha}$  have same valency, and  $\bar{G}$  is locally primitive on  $\Gamma_N$ ;

$\bar{G}$  is vertex-transitive iff  $G$  is vertex-transitive;

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- **basic 2-arc-transitive graph**: if  $G \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  acts transitively on the set of 2-arcs of  $\Gamma$ , and every minimal normal subgroup of  $G$  has at most two orbits on  $V\Gamma$ .

# Definitions

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- Let  $\Gamma$  be a bipartite graph and  $G \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  is transitive on  $V\Gamma$ .  $G$  has a subgroup  $G^+$  of index 2 with two orbits on  $V\Gamma$ , say  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  the two parts of the bipartition of  $V\Gamma$ .

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- $\Gamma$  is called  $G$ -bi-primitive graph, if  $G^+$  is primitive and faithful on each of  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$ , further, if  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) = G$ , then  $\Gamma$  is called bi-primitive graph.

# Definitions

- **bi-Cayley graph:** The *bi-Cayley graph* over  $H$  with respect to  $S$ , denoted by  $\text{BiCay}(H, S)$ , is defined as a graph whose vertex set is the union of following two copies of  $H$ :

$$H_0 = \{h_0 \mid h \in H\}, H_1 = \{h_1 \mid h \in H\},$$

and whose edge set is

$$\{\{h_0, (sh)_1\} \mid h_0 \in H_0, h_1 \in H_1, s \in S\}.$$

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- **Normal bi-Cayley graph:** If  $H \trianglelefteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ , then  $\Gamma$  is called a normal bi-Cayley graph of  $H$ .

# Background

## Theorem

Let  $\Gamma$  be an  $s$ -arc transitive graph.

- If  $\Gamma$  is cubic, then  $s \leq 5$  (Tutte 1947);
- If  $\Gamma$  is of valency at least 3, then  $s \leq 7$  (Weiss 1981).

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This led to one of the central problems in symmetrical graph theory:

## Problem

For large values of  $s$ , say  $s \geq 2$ ,

- characterize  $s$ -arc transitive graphs,
- characterize  $s$ -arc transitive Cayley graphs.

# Background

- Brian Alspach, Marston D.E. Conder, Dragan Marusic, Ming-Yao Xu (1996): Classified [2-arc transitive circulants](#);
- Dragan Marusic (2003), Shaofei Du, Aleksander Malni, Dragan Marusic (2008): Classified [2-arc transitive dihedrants](#);
- Li-Xia (2019), Zhou JX (2021): Classified [2-arc transitive solvable Cayley graphs](#).

# Background

- 1-arc transitive Cayley graphs of simple groups with prime valency and solvable stabilizers (Feng, Yin, Zhou, 2021);
- 1-arc transitive Cayley graphs of simple groups with prime valency (Li JJ and Lu ZP, 2021), preprint 48 pages.
- 2-arc transitive Cayley graphs of alternating groups (Pan, Xia, Yin 2021);



# Biprimitive 2-arc-transitive bi-Cayley Graphs

# Background

- Caiheng Li(2001), Classified the finite vertex primitive and vertex-biprimitive  $s$ -transitive graphs for  $s \geq 4$ .

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- **Problem:** Classify the vertex-primitive and vertex-biprimitive  $s$ -arc-transitive but not  $s$ -arc-regular graph for  $s \geq 2$ .

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- **Problem:** Classify the vertex-primitive and vertex-biprimitive 2-arc-transitive graphs.

# Aim

Classify the biprimitive non-normal 2-arc-transitive bi-Cayley graphs.



# Lemmas

## Lemma 1. [8, Theorem 2.3]

Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite connected regular bipartite graph with a group  $G$  of automorphisms which is 2-arc transitive and bi-quasiprimitive. Then the subgroup  $G^+$  of index 2 in  $G$  fixing the parts  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  of the bipartition setwise has a unique minimal normal subgroup  $N \cong T^k$ , where  $k \geq 1$ , and  $T$  is a simple group, and  $(G^+)^{\Delta_1} \cong (G^+)^{\Delta_2}$  is of type I (affine), II (almost simple), III(b)(i) (product action), or III(c) (twisted wreath), as described in [9].

# Main Result

## Theorem 1

Let  $\Gamma$  is a bi-primitive 2-arc-transitive graph with two parts  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$ ,  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and  $A^+$  be the stabilizer of  $A$  on two parts. Then  $(A^+)^{\Delta_1} \cong (A^+)^{\Delta_2}$  is of type affine, almost simple or twisted wreath.

# Lemma

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## Lemma 2. [6, Theorem 1.1]

Let  $G$  be an almost simple primitive permutation group on a set  $\Omega$ , with socle  $L$ . Suppose that  $G$  has a subgroup  $B$  which is regular on  $\Omega$ . Then the possibilities for  $G$ ,  $G_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in \Omega$ ) and  $B$  are given in Tables 16.1 – 16.3 at the end of the paper.

# Strategy

Let  $\Gamma = \text{BiCay}(G, S)$  is a biprimitive  $(X, 2)$ -arc-transitive bi-Cayley graph, where  $s \geq 2$ ,  $G \leq X \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ , assume that  $G \not\leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ .

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- $X^+$  is an almost simple group.
- $X^+$  has a factorization:  $X^+ = GX_\alpha^+$ , where  $X_\alpha^+$  is the maximal subgroup of  $X^+$  and  $G$  is regular on  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$ .

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- Determines the structure of  $X_\alpha = X_\alpha^+$ ,

$$X_\alpha = X_\alpha^{[1]} \cdot X_\alpha^{\Gamma(\alpha)} = (X_{\alpha\beta}^{[1]} \cdot (X_\alpha^{[1]})^{\Gamma(\beta)}) \cdot X_\alpha^{\Gamma(\alpha)}.$$



# Condition

## Condition

A graph  $\Gamma$  is an  $(X, 2)$ -arc-transitive graph of valency  $k$  with  $X \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  if and only if there exists a 2-element  $g \in X$  such that  $\Gamma \cong \text{Cos}(X, X_u, X_u g X_u)$  with  $u \in V(\Gamma)$ ,  $X_u$  acts 2-transitively on  $[X_u : X_u^g \cap X_u]$  and the following conditions hold:

$$k = |X_u : X_u^g \cap X_u|, g^2 \in X_u, g \in \mathbf{N}_X(X_u^g \cap X_u), \langle g, X_u \rangle = X.$$

# Main Result

Let  $q$  be a prime power and  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Let  $PG(n-1, q)$  be the  $(n-1)$ -dimensional projective geometry over a field of order  $q$ . Let  $V_1$  and  $V_{n-1}$  be the sets of points and hyperplanes of  $PG(n-1, q)$ , respectively.

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- The *point-hyperplane incidence graph*, denoted by  $HP(n-1, q)$ , of  $PG(n-1, q)$  is the graph with vertices  $V_1 \cup V_{n-1}$ , and  $\alpha \in V_1$  and  $\beta \in V_{n-1}$  are adjacent if and only if  $\alpha \subseteq \beta$ .

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- The *point-hyperplane non-incidence graph*, denoted by  $\overline{HP(n-1, q)}$ , of  $PG(n-1, q)$  is the graph with vertices  $V_1 \cup V_{n-1}$ , and  $\alpha \in V_1$  and  $\beta \in V_{n-1}$  are adjacent if and only if  $\alpha \not\subseteq \beta$ .

# Main Result

## Theorem 2

Let  $\Gamma$  be a bi-primitive  $s$ -arc-transitive bi-Cayley graph over a group  $B$  with  $s \geq 2$ . Let  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ . Then one of the following holds:

- (a)  $\Gamma$  is a normal bi-Cayley graph;
- (b)  $\Gamma$  is the complete bipartite graph  $K_{n,n}$ ;
- (c)  $\Gamma \cong \Delta^{(2)}$ , where  $\Delta = K_n$  with  $n \geq 3$ , or  $\Delta$  is one of the graphs given in [5, Table 1];
- (d)  $\Gamma \cong HP(n-1, q), \overline{HP(n-1, q)}$  ( $n \geq 3$ ),  $G(22, 5)$  or  $B'(H(11))$  (see [7] for the last two graphs);
- (e)  $\Gamma$  is one of the graphs given in *Examples 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.11, 4.13 and 4.14*.

# Basic 2-arc-transitive graphs of order $r^a s^5$ or $2r^a s^5$

# Background

- C.E. Praeger (1993) proved that a connected 2-arc-transitive graph is a cover of some **basic 2-arc-transitive graph**.

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Lemma 3. [9, Theorem 2.]

Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite connected graph with a group  $G$  of automorphisms which is 2-arc transitive on  $\Gamma$  and quasiprimitive on the vertex set  $\Omega$  of  $\Gamma$ . Then  $G$  is of HA, AS, PA or TW as described in [9].

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- C.E. Praeger (1993) proved that if  $\Gamma$  is bipartite, then either  $\Gamma$  is a complete bipartite graph, or  $G^+$  is faithful on both parts of  $\Gamma$ .

# Background

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- Caiheng Li, Zaiping Lu and Jingjian Li (2010): Classified 2-arc-transitive graph of odd order.
- Luke Morgan. et al. (2016), for any given positive integers  $k$ ,  $n$  and  $d$  with  $d$  large enough, there exist only a finite number of primes  $r$  such that  $kr^n$  is the order of some 2-arc-transitive graph of valency  $d$ .

# Aim

Classify the basic 2-arc-transitive graphs of order  $r^a s^b$  and  $2r^a s^b$  (bipartite).

# Lemmas

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- Caiheng Li, Xianhua Li's (2014) classification of permutation groups of degree a product of two prime-powers:

## Lemma 4. [1, Theorem 1.2]

Let  $T$  be a finite simple group and  $X < T$  with  $|T : X| = p^a q^b$ , where  $p, q$  are primes and  $a, b$  are positive integers, then  $X$  is isomorphic to  $K$  or  $H$  and  $(T, X)$  lies in Tables 3.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 5.1.



# Main Result

## Theorem 3

Let  $a$  be a positive integer,  $r$  and  $s$  be distinct primes. Assume that  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  is a basic 2-arc-transitive graph with respect to a group  $G$ . Let  $\{\alpha, \beta\} \in E$  and  $G^+ = \langle G_\alpha, G_\beta \rangle$ . Assume that  $G$  is almost simple with  $\text{soc}(G) = T$  and  $G^+$  has an orbit on  $V$  of length  $r^a s^b$ . Then  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to one of the following graphs:

- (1) the complete graph  $K_{r^a s^b}$  and its standard double cover;
- (2) the Odd graph  $O_4$  of valency 4 and its standard double cover;
- (3) the point-hyperplane incidence graph and non-incidence graph of the projective geometry  $\text{PG}(n-1, q)$ , where  $n \geq 3$  and  $r^a s^b = \frac{q^n - 1}{q - 1}$ ;
- (4) the incidence graph of the generalized quadrangle  $\text{GQ}(4, 2^{2^i})$ , where  $i \geq 1$ ;
- (5) the graphs in Examples 3.1, 3.2, 3.4-3.10, the standard double cover of the graph in Example 3.1, and the graphs described as in Tables 4.2 and 6.7.
- (6)  $T = \text{PSL}_2(p^{2^i})$ ,  $T_\alpha = C_p^{2^i} \rtimes C_m$ , and  $\Gamma$  is of valency  $p^{2^i}$  and described as in [4, Table 1], where  $p$  is an odd prime and  $m = \frac{p^{2^{i_0}} - 1}{2^{i_0 + 1}}$  for  $1 \leq i_0 < i$ .

# On locally primitive symmetric graph of valency twice prime

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- Jiangmin Pan (2014) classify locally-primitive Cayley graphs of dihedral groups.

# Aim

Classify the locally primitive symmetric graphs of valency  $2p$  admitting a transitive alternating automorphism group.

## Lemma 5.

Let  $\Gamma$  be a  $G$ -locally primitive graph with  $H < G \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  such  $H \cong A_n$  is transitive on  $V\Gamma$ , where  $n \geq 5$ . Take  $N$  an arbitrary normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then either  $G$  acts quasi-primitively on  $V\Gamma$  or  $N$  has at least three orbits on  $V\Gamma$  and the normal quotient  $\Gamma_N$  is  $G/N$ -locally primitive, in particular,  $\Gamma$  is a normal cover of  $\Gamma_N$  for the latter.



# Lemmas

## Lemma 6.

Let  $\Gamma$  be a  $G$ -locally primitive graph of valency  $2r$ , where  $r$  is an odd prime and  $G \leq \text{Aut}\Gamma$  acts quasi-primitively on  $V\Gamma$ . If  $G$  contains a proper transitive subgroup isomorphic to an alternating simple group, then either  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph of  $A_n$  or  $G$  is an almost simple group.

# Lemmas

- Binzhou Xia (2017) classified quasi-primitive permutation groups with a transitive subgroup which is isomorphic to  $A_n$  for some  $n \geq 5$ :

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## Lemma 7. [10, Theorem 1.1]

Suppose that  $L = HK$  is a factorization of the finite simple group  $L$  with  $H \cong A_n$ , where  $n \geq 5$ . Then one of the following holds.

- (a)  $L = A_{n+k}$  for  $1 \leq k \leq 5$ , and  $L_\alpha$  is  $k$ -transitive on  $n + k$  points.
- (b)  $L = A_m$  and  $L_\alpha = A_{m-1}$ , where  $m$  is the index of a subgroup in  $A_n$ .
- (c)  $(L, n, L_\alpha)$  lies in [10, Table 1].

# Main Result

## Theorem 4.

Let  $\Gamma$  be a  $G$ -symmetric graphs of valency  $2r$ , where  $G \leq \text{Aut}\Gamma$  and  $r$  is an odd prime. Assume that  $\Gamma$  is  $G$ -locally primitive and  $H \cong A_n$  acts transitively on  $V\Gamma$  for  $H < G$  and  $n \geq 5$  integer. Then either  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to a normal Cayley graph of  $A_n$ , or  $G$  is almost simple with socle  $L$  and one of the following holds.

- (1)  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to the complete graph  $K_{2r+1}$ ;
- (2)  $(L, H) = (A_{n+1}, A_n)$  and  $L_\alpha$  is 1-transitive but not 2-transitive on  $n + 1$  points;
- (3)  $(L, L_\alpha^{\Gamma(\alpha)}, r)$  is  $(A_{q+1}, \text{PSL}(2, q).\mathcal{O}, \frac{q+1}{2})$  and  $H \cong A_{q-1}$ , where  $\mathcal{O} \leq \text{Out}(\text{PSL}(2, q))$ ,  $q = p^f$  for  $p$  some odd prime and  $f$  a power of 2;
- (4)  $\Gamma$  is a normal cover of one of the above graphs.

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**Thank You!**