

# Non-commuting, non-generating graphs and intersection graphs of groups

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SUSTech Group Theory Seminar  
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## The generating graph of a group

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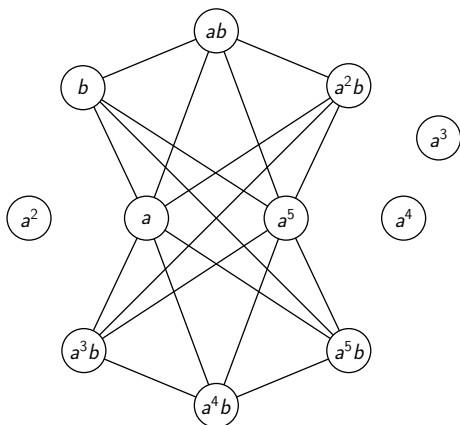
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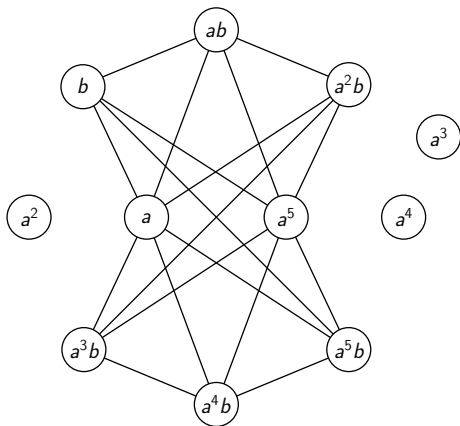
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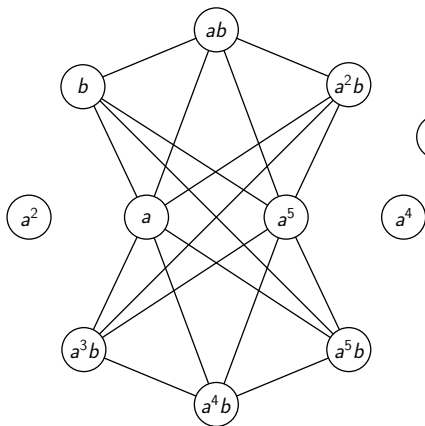


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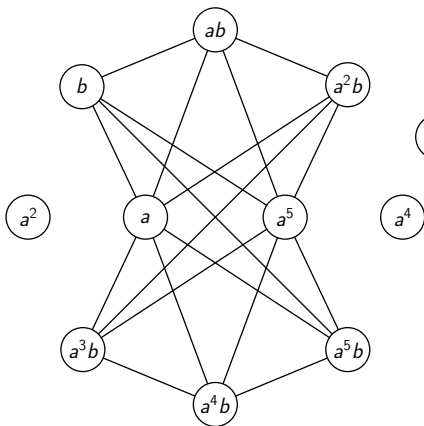
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This connected component has **diameter** 2 – this is the maximal length of a shortest path between two vertices.

# A hierarchy of graphs

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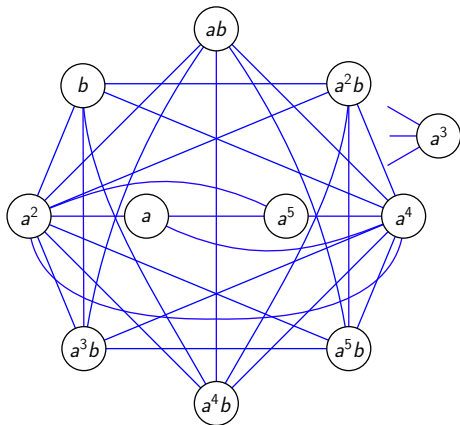
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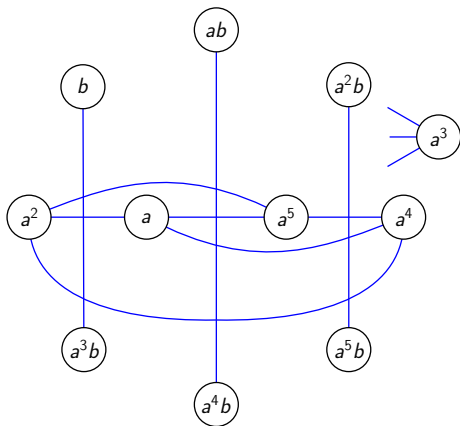
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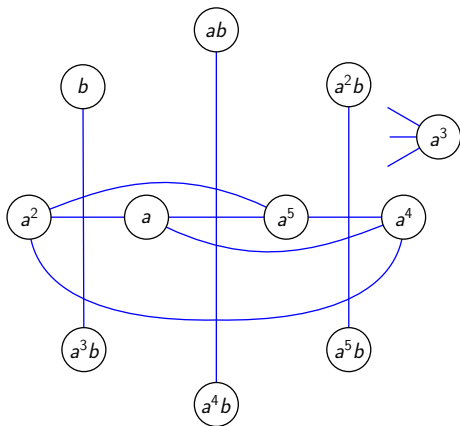
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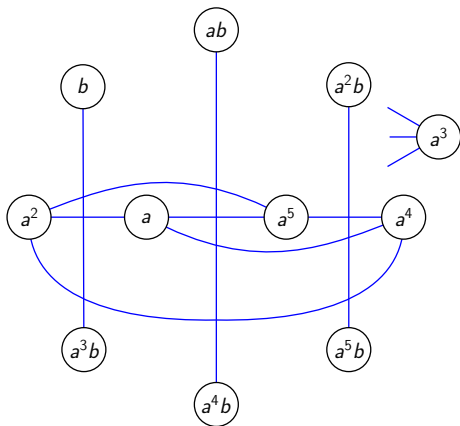
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The generating graph is the difference between the first two graphs.  
We will consider the next difference.

# The non-commuting, non-generating graph

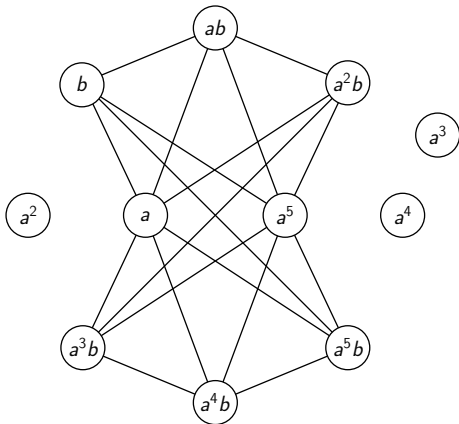
## Definition

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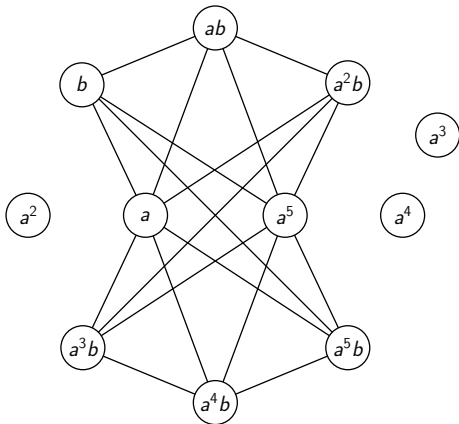


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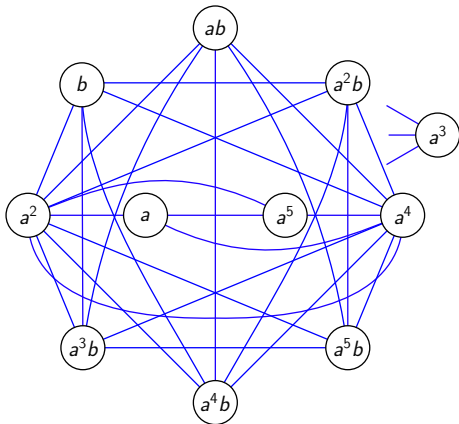
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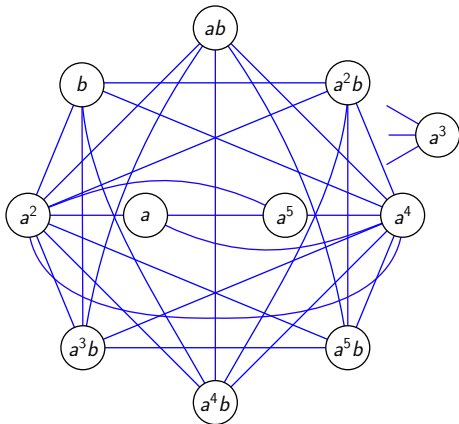


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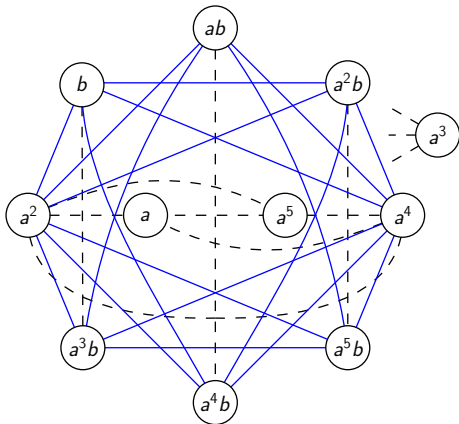


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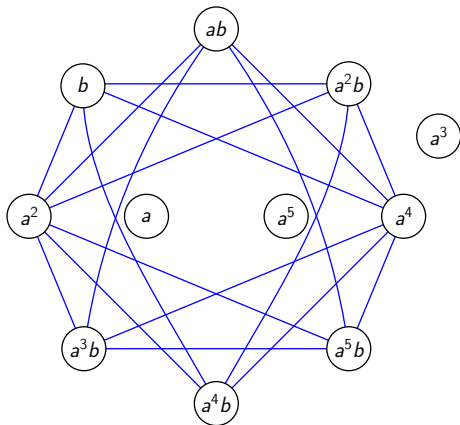


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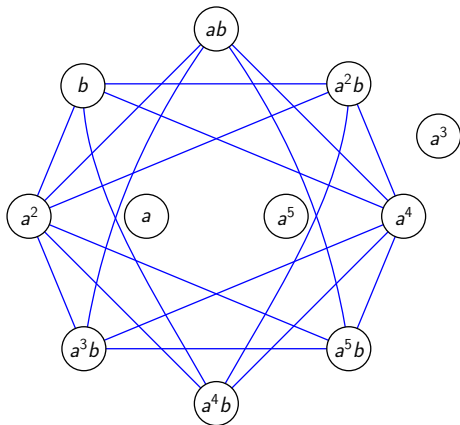


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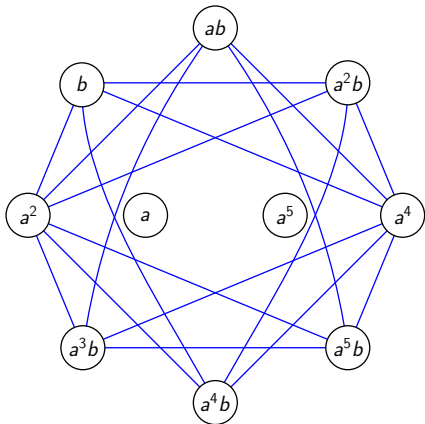


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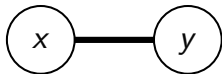
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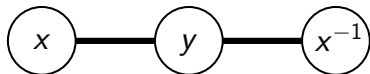
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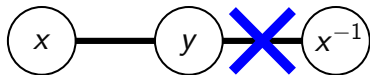
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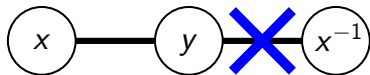
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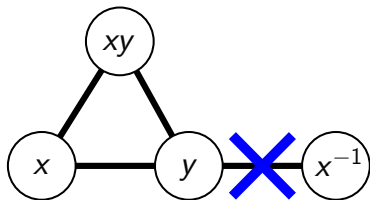


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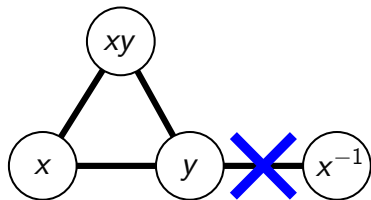


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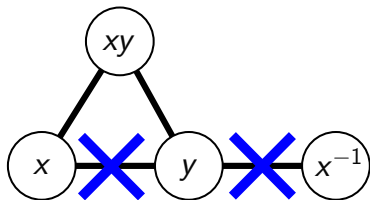
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Ol'shanskii showed in 1982 that a Tarski monster exists for each prime  $p > 10^{75}$ .

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If  $d \geq 3$ , then  $G$  has no generating pairs. Hence  $\Gamma(G)$  is the non-commuting graph of  $G$  (with vertices  $G \setminus Z(G)$ ).

# The non-commuting graph of a group

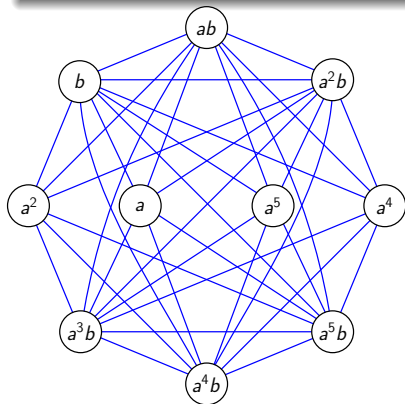
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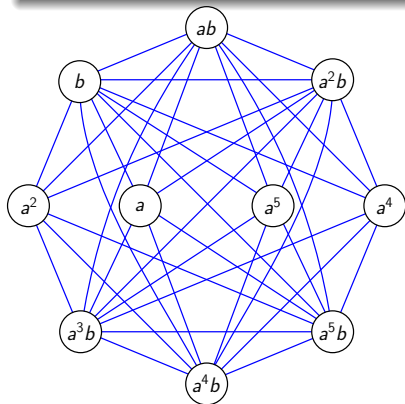




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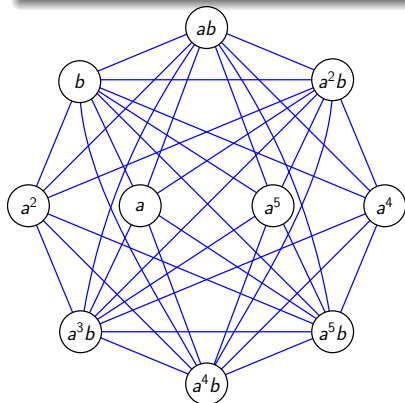


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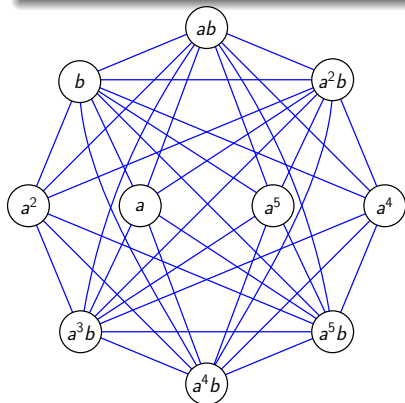
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The union of two proper subgroups  
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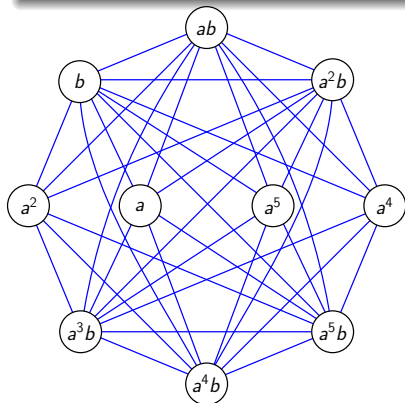
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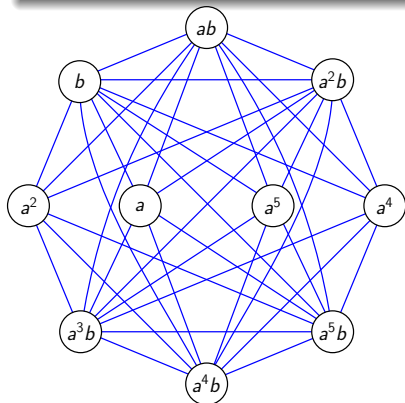
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We are therefore only interested in  $\Gamma(G)$  when  $G$  is 2-generated and non-abelian.

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For finite groups, it suffices to prove the conjecture for primitive groups  $G$  with all proper quotients cyclic.

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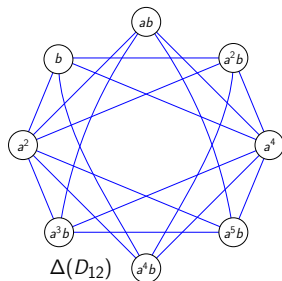
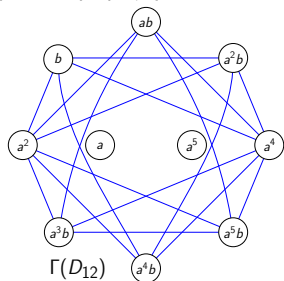
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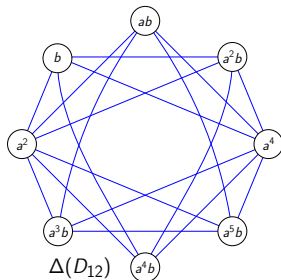
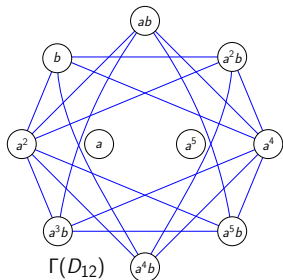
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- (vi) By the above lemma,  $\Delta(G)$  has diameter 2.



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## Theorem (Crestani & Lucchini, 2013)

Let  $k$  be a positive integer. There exists a non-abelian finite simple group  $T$  and a positive integer  $n$  such that, excluding isolated vertices, the generating graph of  $T^n$  is connected with diameter greater than  $k$ .

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Let  $G$  be a 2-generated finite soluble group. Excluding isolated vertices, the generating graph of  $G$  is connected with diameter at most 3.

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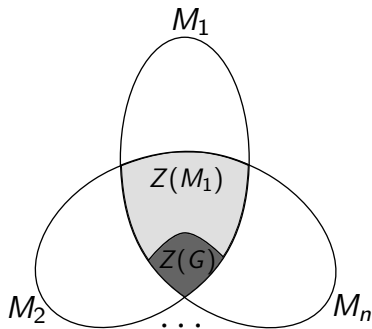
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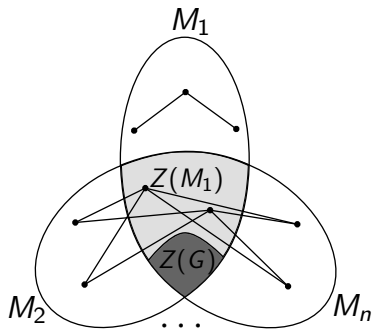
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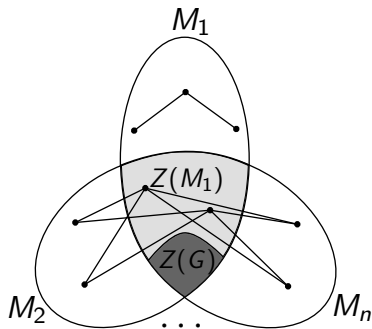
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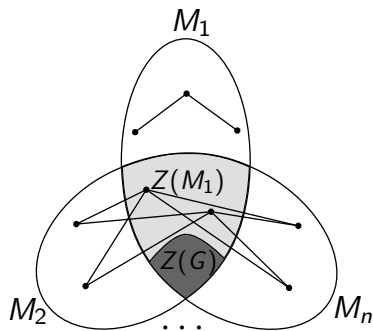
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We will call a group  $G$  a **[2, 2]-group** if  $\Gamma(G)$  is the union of two connected components of diameter 2.



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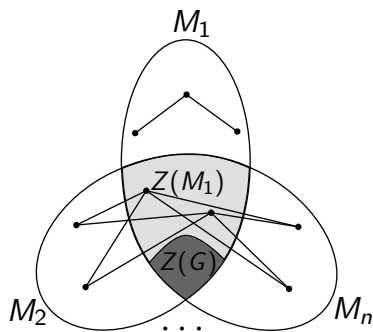
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A finite group  $G$  has exactly two conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups if and only if there exist distinct primes  $p$  and  $r$  such that:

- (i)  $G = P \rtimes R$ , with  $P$  a  $p$ -group and  $R$  a cyclic  $r$ -group; and
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There exists a prime divisor  $r$  of  $q - 1$  such that the subgroup  $H \rtimes C_r$  of  $N$  is a  $[2, 2]$ -group.

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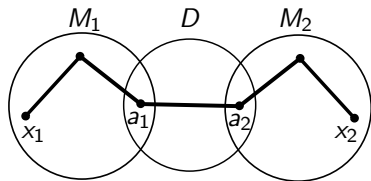


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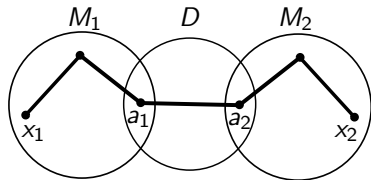
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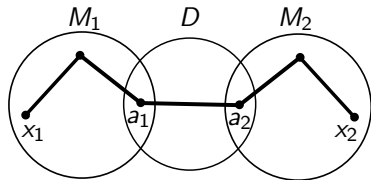
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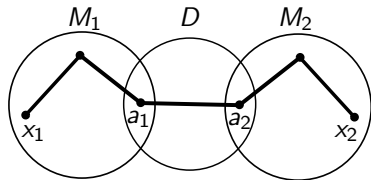
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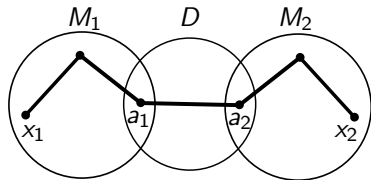
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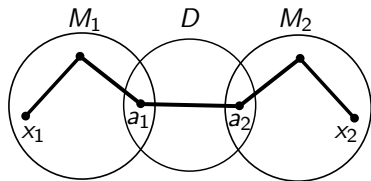
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$\Delta(G) = \Gamma(G)$  (using results of Guralnick & Tracey, 2022+).

# Families of finite simple groups

$G$	$\text{diam}(\Gamma(G))$
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$M_{23}, J_1$	3
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**Question:** Can these upper bounds be reduced?



# The intersection graph of a finite group

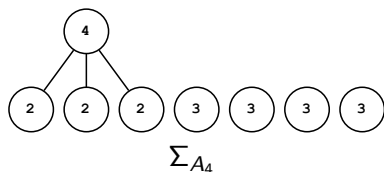
Definition (Csákány & Pollák, 1969)

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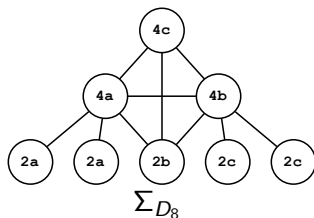
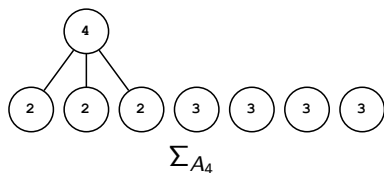
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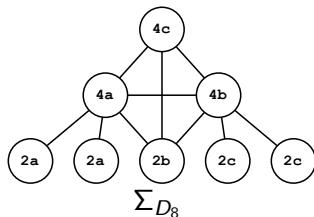
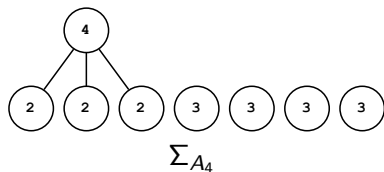
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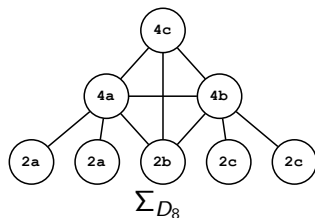
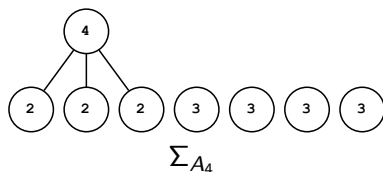
Let  $G$  be a nontrivial, non-simple finite group.

- (i)  $\Sigma_G$  is disconnected if and only if  $G \cong C_p \times C_q$  for primes  $p$  and  $q$ ; or  $Z(G) = 1$  and  $G$  is minimal non-abelian.

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**Open question:** Is there a finite non-simple group  $G$  with  $\text{diam}(\Sigma_G) = 4$ ? If yes, then  $G = S \rtimes C_p$  for a non-abelian simple group  $S$  and an odd prime  $p$  (Csákány & Pollák, 1969).

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Let  $1 < S_1 < M_1$  and  $1 < S_2 < M_2$ , with  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  maximal subgroups of even order. Then  $S_1 \sim M_1 \sim D \sim M_2 \sim S_2$ , with  $D$  dihedral.

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$\text{PSU}(n, q)$ ,  $n$  odd prime:  $\text{diam}(\Sigma_G) \leq 5$ , via similar arguments to the linear case.



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- $\Gamma(\mathbb{B})$  and  $\Gamma(\text{PSU}(7,2))$  have diameter 4.
- The soluble graph of  $\mathbb{B}$  has diameter 4 or 5 (Burness, Lucchini & Nemmi, 2021+).