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**Large Cayley Graphs and
Digraphs with Small Degree
and Diameter**

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LARGE CAYLEY GRAPHS AND DIGRAPHS WITH SMALL DEGREE AND DIAMETER

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ABSTRACT. We review the status of the Degree/Diameter problem for both, graphs and digraphs and present new Cayley digraphs which yield improvements over some of the previously known largest vertex transitive digraphs of given degree and diameter.

1. INTRODUCTION

Interconnection networks (for example of computers, or of components on a microchip) can be modelled conveniently by graphs or digraphs depending on whether the communication between nodes is two-way or only one-way. In practice, such networks are subject to two fundamental restrictions: the number of connections that can be attached at any one node is limited, as is the number of intermediate nodes on the communications path between two nodes. We have arrived at the

Degree/Diameter Problem: find (di-)graphs of maximal order with given (in- and out-)degree Δ and diameter D .

In this paper we discuss this problem for undirected and directed graphs and present new Cayley digraphs which improve known results in the case of vertex transitive graphs.

2. NOTATION AND TERMINOLOGY

We will consider directed and undirected graphs Γ . The *distance* from a vertex x to a vertex y is the length of a shortest path from x to y . The set of all vertices of Γ whose distance from a vertex x equals i is denoted by $\Gamma_i(x)$. The *diameter* of the (di)graph Γ is the maximum of all distances between pairs of vertices of Γ . Graphs of degree Δ and diameter D are called (Δ, D) graphs (similarly for digraphs). A graph is said to be Δ -*regular* if all its vertices have degree Δ ; a digraph is called Δ -regular if all its vertices have in- and outdegree Δ .

A (di)graph is called *vertex transitive* if its automorphism group is transitive on the set of vertices, a digraph is called *arc transitive* if its automorphism group is transitive on the set of arcs. In the context of networks, vertex transitive (di)graphs are advantageous because identical routing algorithms can be used at each vertex.

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Examples of vertex transitive graphs and digraphs can be obtained by constructing the *Cayley (di)graph* of a group G relative to a generating set X . The elements of the group G form the set of vertices of the Cayley digraph $Cay(G, X)$; there is an arc from g to h if $h = gx$ for some $x \in X$. If the generating set X is closed under inversion we can consider the pairs of opposite arcs between adjacent vertices as undirected edges and refer to this as the Cayley graph of G relative to X . Algebraically, the diameter of $Cay(G, X)$ is the maximum number of terms required to write elements of G as words in the alphabet X .

As an aside we recall that the Petersen graph is vertex transitive but not a Cayley graph. Sabidussi [37] showed that all vertex transitive graphs can be obtained as *Cayley coset graphs* of groups relative to some set of generators. Similar results hold for digraphs [27].

We now define some elementary classes of groups which have been used in [22] to construct large graphs. First of all, there are metacyclic groups, i.e. semidirect products of cyclic groups: if the multiplicative order of the unit $a \in Z_n$ divides m , a semidirect product of Z_m with Z_n can be defined using the following multiplication:

$$[x, y][u, v] = [x + u \bmod m, ya^u + v \bmod n].$$

In Table 1 groups of this kind are identified by DH ; our detailed listing in the appendix uses the symbol $m \times_a n$, e.g. $6 \times_3 28$.

Another useful type of groups are semidirect products of a cyclic group Z_m with a direct sum $Z_n \times Z_n$. An automorphism σ of $Z_n \times Z_n$ is determined by the images of the generators $\sigma([1, 0]) = [x, y]$ and $\sigma([0, 1]) = [z, t]$. If the order of σ divides m we can define a multiplication on $Z_m \times Z_n \times Z_n$ by:

$$[c, d, e][f, g, h] = [c + f \bmod m, [d, e] \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{bmatrix}^f + [g, h] \bmod n].$$

In Table 1 we identify groups of this kind by DH^* ; our detailed listing in the appendix uses the symbol $m \times_\sigma n^2$, e.g. $8 \times_\sigma 3^2$; the action of the cyclic group is not encoded into this symbol and is specified separately.

A further kind of group is indicated in Table 1 by DH^{**} . These are semidirect products of $G = m \times_a n$ with itself, where the action is by conjugation.

The *line digraph* $L(\Gamma)$ of a digraph Γ has the arcs of Γ as vertices; arcs of $L(\Gamma)$ correspond to walks of length 2 in Γ . If Γ is Δ -regular with n vertices then $L(\Gamma)$ is also Δ -regular and has Δn vertices [28, 23]. Clearly, iteration of this construction produces an infinite sequence of Δ -regular graphs.

3. THE UNDIRECTED CASE

The order n of a graph Γ with diameter D and maximum degree Δ satisfies the inequality

$$(1) \quad n \leq 1 + \Delta + \Delta(\Delta - 1) + \cdots + \Delta(\Delta - 1)^{D-1}.$$

Graphs for which equality holds in (1) are called *Moore Graphs*. After distinguishing a vertex x in a Moore graph, any vertex in $\Gamma_i(x)$, $0 < i < D$, is adjacent only to vertices in $\Gamma_{i-1}(x)$ and $\Gamma_{i+1}(x)$, while vertices in $\Gamma_D(x)$ are adjacent only to vertices in $\Gamma_{D-1}(x)$ and $\Gamma_D(x)$. In other words: after the edges between vertices

in $\Gamma_D(x)$ are removed, the Moore graph Γ becomes a tree whose internal vertices have degree Δ . Inequality (1) with ' \leq ' replaced by ' \geq ' applies to graphs of order n with maximum degree Δ and odd girth $2D + 1$, so that Moore graphs appear also as solutions of the extremal problem associated with given girth $2D + 1$ and given maximum degree Δ .

There are only very few Moore graphs [31, 4, 16]:

Δ	D	n	Description
2	D	$2D + 1$	$(2D + 1)$ -gon
3	2	10	Petersen
7	2	50	Hoffman-Singleton
57	2	3250	?

It is not known if there exists a graph with $\Delta = 57$, $D = 2$ and $n = 3250$. Aschbacher [1] showed that a $(57, 2)$ -graph of order 3250 cannot be distance-transitive.

The only graph whose order differs from the Moore bound by 1 is the square [5, 25]. This implies that the entries $(3, 3)$, $(4, 2)$, and $(5, 2)$ in Table 1 are indeed optimal, a fact which goes back to Elspas [24]. More recently it has been shown that for $\Delta = 3$, $D \geq 4$ the Moore bound cannot be missed by 2 [32].

Table 1 is an update of [9] and contains the orders of the largest known (Δ, D) graphs with annotations indicating the nature of the graphs. Comparison of the Moore bound with the orders listed in the table shows that, mostly, the Moore bound is missed by a considerable margin.

Graphs appearing in Table 1

<i>2cy</i>	connections between two cycles [3]
<i>Allwr</i>	graphs found by Allwright [2]
<i>Cam</i>	Cayley graphs of linear groups [12]
<i>CR*</i>	chordal rings found by Quisquater [36]
<i>vC</i>	compound graphs by von Conta [40]
<i>DH, DH*, DH**</i>	Cayley graphs of metacyclic and related groups [22]
<i>Dinn</i>	Cayley graphs found by Dinneen [21]
C_n	cycle on n vertices
<i>GFS</i>	graph by Gómez, Fiol and Serra [29]
H_q	incidence graph of a regular generalized hexagon [6]
<i>HS</i>	Hoffman-Singleton graph
K_n	complete graph
<i>Lente</i>	graph designed by Lente, Univ. Paris Sud, France
<i>P</i>	Petersen graph
P_q	incidence graph of a projective plane [30]
Q_q	incidence graph of a regular generalized quadrangle [6]
<i>T</i>	tournament

Δ	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	P 10	$C_5 * F_4$ 20	vC 38	vC 70	GFS 130	CR^* 184	CR^* 320	$2cy$ 540	$2cy$ 938
4	$K_3 * C_5$ 15	$Allwr$ 41	$C_5 * C_{19}$ 95	H'_3 364	$H_3(K_3)$ 740	DH 1155	DH^{**} 3025	DH 7550	DH 16555
5	$K_3 * X_8$ 24	$Lente$ 70	$Q_4(K_3)$ 186	$H'_3 d$ 532	$H_4(K_3)$ 2754	DH 5334	DH 15532	DH 49932	DH 145584
6	$K_4 * X_8$ 32	$C_5 * C_{21}$ 105	DH^* 360	DH 1230	$H_5(K_4)$ 7860	DH 18775	DH 69540	DH 275540	DH 945574
7	HS 502	DH^* 144	DH^* 600	DH 2756	$H_4(K_4) < H_5$ 10566	DH 47304	DH 214500	DH 945574	Cam 4773696
8	P'_7 57	DH 234	DH 1012	DH^* 4704	$H_7(K_6)$ 39396	DH 127134	DH 654696	DH^{**} 2408704	Cam 7738848
9	$P'_8 d$ 57	Q'_8 585	DH 1430	DH 7344	$H_8(K_6)$ 75198	DH 264024	DH^{**} 1354896	DH 4980696	Cam 19845936
10	P'_9 91	$Q'_8 d$ 650	DH 2200	DH^* 12288	$H_9(K_6)$ 133500	DH 554580	DH^{**} 3069504	DH 9003000	$Q_7 \Sigma_2 H_7$ 47059200
11	$P'_9 d$ 94	$Q'_8 d$ 715	$Q_7(T_4)$ 3200	DH 17458	$H_7(T_4)$ 156864	DH 945574	Cam 4773696	Cam 25048800	$Q_7 \Sigma_6 H_8$ 179755200
12	P'_{11} 133	$Q'_8 d$ 780	$Q'_8 * X_8$ 4680	DH 26871	$H_{11}(K_6)$ 355812	$Dinn$ 1732514	DH 10007820	DH 48532122	$Q_8 \Sigma_6 H_9$ 466338600
13	$P'_{11} d$ 136	$Q'_8 d$ 845	$Q_9(T_4)$ 6560	DH 37056	$H_9(T_4)$ 531440	Cam 2723040	DH 15027252	DH 72598920	$Q_9 \Sigma_6 H_9$ 762616400
14	P'_{13} 183	$Q'_8 d$ 910	$Q_9(T_5)$ 8200	DH 53955	$H_{13}(K_7)$ 806636	$K_1 \Sigma_8 H_{11}$ 6200460	$Dinn$ 29992052	$P_9 \Sigma_7 H_{11}$ 164755080	$Q_8 \Sigma_6 H_{11}$ 1865452680
15	$P'_{13} d$ 186	$(\otimes Q_{2,4})'$ 1215	$Q_{11}(T_4)$ 11712	DH 69972	$H_{11}(T_4)$ 1417248	DH 7100796	DH 38471006	$P_{11} \Sigma_1 H_{11}$ 282740976	$Q_{11} \Sigma_6 H_{11}$ 3630989376

TABLE 1. Largest known undirected (Δ, D) graphs

Operations on graphs used in Table 1

$G * H$	twisted product of graphs [7]
Gd	duplication of some vertices of G [20]
B'	quotient of a bipartite graph B by a polarity [19]
$B(K)$	substitution of vertices of a bipartite graph B by complete graphs K [15]
$B(K) < B$	compound of $B(K)$ and a bipartite graph B and a tournament T [29]
$\otimes B$	the component with polarity of the cartesian product of a bipartite graph B with itself [18]
$G\Sigma_i H$	various compounding operations [29]

4. THE DIRECTED CASE

The order n of a digraph Γ with diameter D and maximum degree Δ satisfies the inequality

$$(2) \quad n \leq 1 + \Delta + \Delta^2 + \cdots + \Delta^D.$$

As in the undirected case, the right hand side in inequality (2) is known as the *Moore bound* (because it derives from a similar tree model). The only cases when equality holds in (2) are $\Delta = 1$ or $D = 1$ [35, 11]. Table 2 contains the orders of the largest known (Δ, D) digraphs. Almost all entries correspond to *Kautz digraphs* $K(\Delta, D)$ whose order is $\Delta^D + \Delta^{D-1}$. The vertices of a Kautz digraph are words $x_1x_2 \cdots x_D$ of length D with $x_i \neq x_{i+1}$ in an alphabet of $\Delta + 1$ letters; arcs go from $x_1x_2 \cdots x_D$ to $x_2 \cdots x_D y$. These digraphs can be obtained from the complete digraph on $\Delta + 1$ vertices (no loops) by line digraph iteration. For $i \geq 4$ the $(2, i)$ digraphs in Table 3 are obtained by line digraph iteration from a $(2, 4)$ digraph on 25 vertices found by computer search [28]. No improvements have been made on this list since 1984.

$\Delta \setminus D$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	6	12	25	50	100	200	400
3	12	36	108	324	972	2 916	8 748
4	20	80	320	1 280	5 120	20 480	81 920
5	30	150	750	3 750	18 750	93 750	468 750
6	42	252	1 512	9 072	54 432	326 592	1 959 552
7	56	392	2 744	19 208	134 456	941 192	6 588 344

TABLE 2. Orders of largest known (Δ, D) digraphs

Recent studies have also focussed on the degree/diameter problem for vertex symmetric digraphs [26, 21, 27, 14]. In Table 3 we collect the current state of this problem, highlighting our new results by bold numbers. Details of the new digraphs are given in the appendix.

Δ	D	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	K 6	FM 10	FM 20	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 27	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}^2$ 72	LD 144	FM 171	FM 336	FM 504	
3	K 12	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 27	FM 60	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 165	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 333	$2G^2$ 1152	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 1 860	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 4 446	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 10 849	
4	K 20	Γ 60	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 168	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 444	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 1260	$2G^2$ 7200	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 12 090	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 38 134	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 132 012	
5	K 30	Γ 120	Γ 360	$2G^2$ 1 152	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 3 582	$2G^2$ 28800	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 54 505	$2G^2$ 259 200	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 752 914	
6	K 42	Γ 210	Γ 840	Γ 2 520	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 7 776	$2G^2$ 88200	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 170 898	$2G^2$ 1 411 200	$3G^3C$ 5 184000	
7	K 56	Γ 336	Γ 1680	Γ 6720	Γ 20160	$2G^2$ 225792	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 521 906	$2G^2$ 5 644 800	$3G^3C$ 5 184000	
8	K 72	Γ 504	Γ 3024	Γ 15 120	Γ 60480	$2G^2$ 508032	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 1 371 582	$2G^2$ 18 289 152	$3G^3C$ 113 799168	
9	K 90	Γ 720	Γ 5040	Γ 30240	Γ 151200	$2G^2$ 1 036800	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ 2 965 270	$2G^2$ 50 803 200	$3G^3C$ 384 072192	
10	K 110	Γ 990	Γ 7920	Γ 55400	Γ 332640	$2G^2$ 1 960220	Γ 6 652 800	$2G^2$ 125 452 800	$3G^3C$ 1 119 744000	

TABLE 3. Largest known vertex symmetric (Δ, D) digraphs

The new results presented here have been produced by computer search. Typically, a group G is selected and a set of Δ generators chosen at random, followed by computation of the diameter of the resulting Cayley digraph. Vertex transitivity allows to restrict the computation to distances from the identity element. The output of such a run might look as follows ($\Delta = 4$, order 168):

```

dist 0: new      1; total      1
dist 1: new      4; total      5
dist 2: new     16; total     21
dist 3: new     55; total     76
dist 4: new     86; total    162
dist 5: new      6; total    168

```

Note that in the first few steps the number of elements produced is $1, \Delta, \Delta^2$, but then the geometric progression stops in this example. The small number of elements with distance 5 might create the hope that a ‘better’ choice of generators would lead to a digraph of diameter 4 on 168 vertices.

The annotations in Table 3 have the following meaning:

Graphs appearing in Table 3

FM	digraph found by computer search by Faber and Moore [26]
Γ	digraph on permutations $\Gamma_{\Delta}(D)$ [26]
K	Kautz digraph [33, 34]
LD	line digraph of an arc symmetric digraph
nG^n	digraph composition [14]
$nG^n C$	generalized digraph composition [14]
$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$	digraphs built from semi-direct products of cyclic groups ([21] and present paper)
$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}^2$	arc symmetric Cayley graph described in present paper

In addition to the new entries labelled $\mathbf{Z} \times_{\sigma} \mathbf{Z}$ there are two new ones of degree 2: a Cayley digraph of order 72, degree 2 and diameter 6 is obtained as Cayley graph of the 2-generator group

$$G = \langle x, y \mid xyxy = yxyx = xy^6x^{-2}y^{-3} = yx^6y^{-2}x^{-3} = 1 \rangle.$$

It is not hard to see that this graph is arc-transitive, and therefore its line digraph is vertex transitive, providing the entry (2, 7) of order 144. The group was found as a semidirect product of Z_8 acting on $Z_3 \times Z_3$.

5. REMARKS

1. Semidirect products of cyclic groups are abundant and therefore a good hunting ground for Cayley graphs. We note that these graphs are also competitive with regard to *average distance* and can improve the results in [38].

2. Most computations were done by programs written in C; results for smaller orders were verified using the computer algebra package CAYLEY [13]. This package was also used to produce some auxiliary files.

3. In the drive for improved results, the following ‘trick’ was occasionally successful. When a group turned out to be a good candidate for a pair (Δ, D) by producing a good number of ‘near misses’ (as exemplified in section 4) the generators involved in these cases were collected and later the sampling of generators restricted to the pool of collected elements. No statistical analysis of this phenomenon is available, but the successes came as a surprise.

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APPENDIX A. GROUPS AND GENERATORS FOR NEW CAYLEY DIGRAPHS

For an explanation of the entries in the column headed ‘Group’ refer to section 2.

(Δ, D)	Order	Group	Generators	Order of Generator
$(2, 6)$	72	$8 \times_{\sigma} 3^2$ [1 0] \rightarrow [1 1] [0 1] \rightarrow [1 0]	[1 1 2] [3 2 2]	8 8
$(3, 5)$	165	$5 \times_4 33$	[4 17] [4 4] [2 21]	15 15 5
$(3, 8)$	1860	$12 \times_{88} 155$	[8 108] [1 93] [11 68]	15 12 12
$(3, 9)$	4446	$18 \times_4 247$	[12 50] [7 125] [10 231]	39 18 9
$(3, 10)$	10849	$19 \times_{407} 571$	[2 19] [7 480] [15 502]	19 19 19
$(4, 4)$	168	$6 \times_3 28$	[4 3] [0 12] [1 22] [1 3]	12 7 6 6
$(4, 5)$	444	$12 \times_8 37$	[5 33] [11 25] [10 17] [3 18]	12 12 6 4
$(4, 6)$	1260	$12 \times_2 105$	[9 87] [4 89] [7 8] [10 45]	28 15 12 6
$(4, 8)$	12090	$30 \times_4 403$	[5 165] [12 285] [1 92] [22 39]	186 65 30 15
$(4, 9)$	38134	$46 \times_{180} 829$	[15 507] [18 276] [6 637] [22 542]	46 23 23 23
$(4, 10)$	132012	$36 \times_{1593} 3667$	[23 1710] [26 3100] [14 707] [15 2346]	36 18 18 12
$(5, 6)$	3582	$18 \times_{37} 199$	[5 13] [16 53] [8 123] [14 34] [15 110]	18 9 9 9 6

(Δ, D)	Order	Group	Generators	Order of Generator
$(5, 8)$	54505	$55 \times_{512} 991$	$[17\ 201]$ $[43\ 430]$ $[49\ 898]$ $[27\ 951]$ $[9\ 528]$	55 55 55 55 55
$(5, 10)$	752914	$194 \times_{2069} 3881$	$[183\ 1044]$ $[30\ 1822]$ $[184\ 1253]$ $[188\ 1265]$ $[160\ 2480]$	194 97 97 97 97
$(6, 6)$	7776	$24 \times_{\sigma} 18^2$ $[1\ 0] \rightarrow [0\ 1]$ $[0\ 1] \rightarrow [7\ 16]$	$[7\ 2\ 8]$ $[23\ 8\ 6]$ $[13\ 7\ 5]$ $[5\ 4\ 5]$ $[2\ 14\ 5]$ $[6\ 17\ 5]$	24 24 24 24 12 4
$(6, 8)$	170898	$78 \times_{1236} 2191$	$[48\ 79]$ $[66\ 76]$ $[17\ 998]$ $[7\ 872]$ $[40\ 1389]$ $[34\ 1491]$	91 91 78 78 39 39
$(7, 8)$	521906	$154 \times_{700} 3389$	$[139\ 798]$ $[71\ 2968]$ $[50\ 3016]$ $[48\ 1301]$ $[33\ 2433]$ $[70\ 2042]$ $[56\ 1956]$	154 154 77 77 14 11 11
$(8, 8)$	1371582	$414 \times_{408} 3313$	$[305\ 241]$ $[95\ 1838]$ $[193\ 353]$ $[287\ 650]$ $[224\ 138]$ $[102\ 3186]$ $[330\ 2254]$ $[153\ 1940]$	414 414 414 414 207 69 69 46
$(9, 8)$	2965270	$770 \times_{32} 3851$	$[419\ 1605]$ $[431\ 3461]$ $[194\ 3715]$ $[514\ 1381]$ $[334\ 943]$ $[296\ 304]$ $[755\ 2906]$ $[623\ 3338]$ $[60\ 733]$	770 770 385 385 385 385 154 110 77

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