

# Prime Graphs of Finite Groups

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# Table of contents

- 1 The Prime Graphs
- 2 Prime graphs without triangle
- 3 Sketch of Proofs

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Prime graphs of  $A_5$  and  $\text{PSL}_2(8)$ 

Figure : A disconnected graph with three connected components

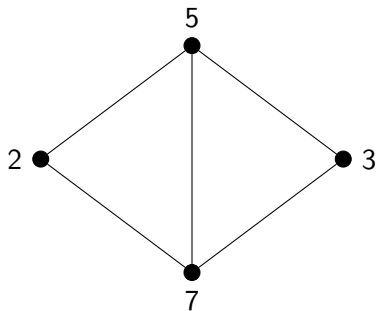
The prime graph of  $A_8$ 

Figure : Diamond

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# Known Results

- (Zhang, 1998) If  $G$  is solvable, then  $\Delta(G) \not\cong P_4$ .
- (Lewis, Meng, 2012) If  $G$  is solvable and  $\Delta(G) \cong C_4$  is a square, then  $G = A \times B$  where  $\rho(A) = \{p, q\}$  and  $\rho(B) = \{r, s\}$ .

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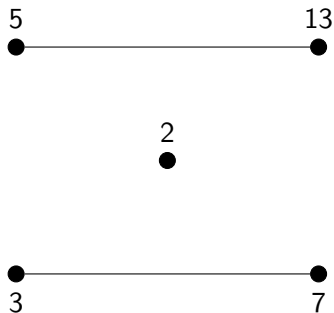
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Figure : The prime graph of  $\text{PSL}_2(2^6)$



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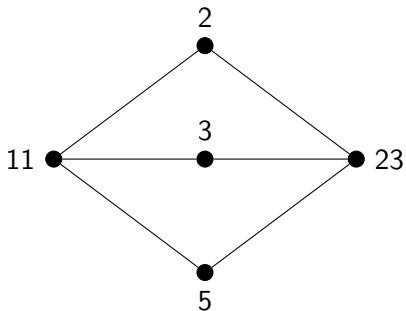


Figure : The prime graph of  $A_5 \times 23^{1+2} : 11$

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# Proofs, cont.

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## Lemma 3 (Reduction)

Let  $G$  be a nonsolvable group and let  $N$  be the solvable radical of  $G$ . Suppose that  $\Delta(G)$  has no triangle. Then there exists a normal subgroup  $M$  of  $G$  such that  $M/N \cong \text{PSL}_2(q)$ , with  $q \geq 4$  a prime power,  $G/N$  is an almost simple group with socle  $M/N$ , and  $\rho(G) = \rho(M)$ .

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## Lemma 4 (Key Lemma)

Let  $G$  be a nonsolvable group and let  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  such that  $G/N$  is nonabelian simple. Let  $\theta \in \text{Irr}(N)$ . Then either  $\chi(1)/\theta(1)$  is divisible by two distinct primes in  $\pi(G/N)$  for some  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|\theta)$  or  $\theta$  extends to  $G$  and  $G/N \cong A_5$  or  $\text{PSL}_2(8)$ .

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- By Lemma 1, we can assume that  $G$  is nonsolvable.
- By Lemma 2,  $G/N$  is almost simple with socle  $M/N$  and  $\pi(G/N) = \pi(M/N)$ .
- Let  $\tau = \rho(G) - \pi(G/N)$ . Then  $\tau \subseteq \rho(N)$ .
- By Lemma 4 and Páfly's Condition, we deduce that  $|\tau| \leq 2$ .
- If  $|\pi(G/N)| = |\pi(M/N)| \leq 3$ , then  $|\rho(G)| = |\pi(G/N)| + |\tau| \leq 5$ .

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- Assume  $|\pi(G/N)| \geq 4$ . If  $\tau \neq \emptyset$ , then there exists  $r \in \tau$  and  $\theta \in \text{Irr}(N)$  with  $r \mid \theta(1)$ . By Lemma 4, there exists  $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G|\theta)$  such that  $\chi(1)/\theta(1)$  is divisible by two distinct primes different from  $r$ . Hence  $\Delta(G)$  has a triangle, a contradiction. Thus  $\tau$  is empty hence  $|\rho(G)| = |\pi(G/N)| \leq 5$  by applying Lemma 3.



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# Possible extensions and related questions

- Classify prime graphs of finite groups which is  $K_n$ -free for some  $n \geq 4$ .
- (Conjecture) If  $\Delta(G)$  is  $K_n$ -free with  $n \geq 4$ , then  $|\rho(G)| \leq 2n - 1$ .
- (Strengthened Huppert's  $\rho - \sigma$  Conjecture)  $\rho(G) \leq 2\sigma(G) + 1$ .
- Classify prime graphs of finite groups which contain a small number  $t(G)$  of triangles.
- (Conjecture) For any group  $G$ , we have  $|\rho(G)| \leq t(G) + 5$ .

# Thank you

Thank you for your attention!