

## SOME REMARKS ON THE ORDER SUPERGRAPH OF THE POWER GRAPH OF A FINITE GROUP

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $G$  be a finite group. The main supergraph  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is a graph with vertex set  $G$  in which two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $o(x)|o(y)$  or  $o(y)|o(x)$ . In an earlier paper, the main properties of this graph was obtained. The aim of this paper is to investigate the Hamiltonianity, Eulerianness and 2-connectedness of this graph.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $x \in G$ . The order of  $x$  is denoted by  $o(x)$  and the least common multiple of all element orders in  $G$  is the exponent of  $G$  which is denoted by  $Exp(G)$ . If there is an element  $a \in G$  such that  $o(a) = Exp(G)$ , then  $G$  is called full exponent. The set of all element orders of  $G$  is denoted by  $\pi_e(G)$  and the set of all prime factors of  $|G|$  is denoted by  $\pi(G)$ . Set  $\Xi_i(G)$  to be the set of all elements of  $G$  of order  $i$  and  $\Omega_i(G) = |\Xi_i(G)|$ . Also  $nse(G) = \{\Omega_i(G) | i \in \pi_e(G)\}$ . An *EPPO*-group is a group that all elements have prime power order and an *EPO*-group is a group with elements of prime order.

Throughout this paper graph means simple graph. Suppose  $\Gamma$  is such a graph. The number of vertices adjacent to  $x$  is the degree of  $x$  and is denoted by  $deg_{\Gamma}(x)$ . If the graph  $\Gamma$  can not be disconnected by removing less than  $k$  vertices, then  $\Gamma$  is called  $k$ -connected. It is clear that every Hamiltonian graph is 2-connected. A set of all vertices in  $\Gamma$  such that no two of which are adjacent is an independent set for  $\Gamma$ . The independent number of  $\Gamma$ ,  $\alpha(\Gamma)$ , is the cardinality of an independent set with maximum size. A set  $S$  of vertices of a graph  $\Gamma$  is a vertex cover for  $\Gamma$ , if every edge of  $\Gamma$  has at least one vertex in  $S$  as an endpoint. The vertex cover

number,  $\beta(\Gamma)$ , is the size of a minimum vertex cover of graph. In the graph  $\Gamma$  with  $n$  vertices always we have  $\alpha(\Gamma) + \beta(\Gamma) = n$ .

The directed power graph of a group  $G$  is a graph with vertex set  $G$  and there is a directed edge connecting  $x$  to  $y$  if and only if  $y$  is a power of  $x$ . This directed graph was introduced in the seminal paper of Kelarev and Quinn in 1999 [13]. In the mentioned paper, the authors considered the directed power graph of groups and gave a complete description of the structure of this graph for a finite abelian group. The same authors [15], extended their results to all semigroups. We refer to [14,16], for some properties of the directed power graph of semigroups.

Suppose  $A$  is a simple graph and  $\mathcal{G} = \{\Gamma_a\}_{a \in A}$  is a set of graphs labeled by vertices of  $A$ . Following Sabidussi [20, p. 396], the  $A$ -join of  $\mathcal{G}$  is the graph  $\Delta$  with the following vertex and edge sets:

$$\begin{aligned} V(\Delta) &= \{(x, y) \mid x \in V(A) \ \& \ y \in V(\Gamma_x)\}, \\ E(\Delta) &= \{(x, y)(x', y') \mid xx' \in E(A) \ \text{or else } x = x' \ \& \ yy' \in E(\Gamma_x)\}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $A$  is an  $p$ -vertex labeled graph then the  $A$ -join of  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_p$  is denoted by  $A[\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_p]$ .

The undirected power graph of a finite group  $G$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(G)$ , was introduced by Chakrabarty et al. [4]. This graph has  $G$  as its vertex set and two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if one is a power of the other. The main properties of this graph were investigated by Cameron [2] and Cameron and Ghosh [3]. Define the graph  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  with vertex set  $G$  such that two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if and only if  $o(x) \mid o(y)$  or  $o(y) \mid o(x)$ . This graph is called the main supergraph of  $\mathcal{P}(G)$ . Some basic properties of this graph are studied in [11]. In [9], the automorphism group of this graph computed in general and in [10] its eigenvalues and Laplacian eigenvalues were computed. Set  $\pi_e(G) = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$  and define the graph  $\Delta_G$  with vertex set  $\pi_e(G)$  and edge set  $E(\Delta_G) = \{xy \mid x, y \in \pi_e(G), x \mid y \ \text{or } y \mid x\}$ . In [8,9], the authors proved that  $\mathcal{S}(G) = \Delta_G[K_{\Omega_{a_1}(G)}, \dots, K_{\Omega_{a_k}(G)}]$ , where  $K_n$  denotes the complete graph on  $n$  vertices.

The proper power graph  $\mathcal{P}^*(G)$  and its proper main supergraph  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  are defined as graphs constructed from  $\mathcal{P}(G)$  and  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  by removing identity element of  $G$ , respectively.

Suppose  $G$  is a finite group,  $X \subseteq G$  and  $C \subseteq G - \{1\}$ . Following Williams [25], the prime graph  $\Lambda(G)$  is a simple graph that vertices are primes dividing the order of the group. Two vertices  $p$  and  $q$  are adjacent if and only if  $G$  contains an element of order  $pq$ . The commuting graph  $C(G, X)$  is a simple graph with vertex set  $X$ ,

and two vertices  $x, y \in X$  are adjacent, whenever  $xy = yx$ . In this paper, we will assume that  $X = G - \{1\}$  and the corresponding commuting graph is denoted by  $\Delta(G)$ . The directed Cayley graph  $\overrightarrow{X(G, C)}$  is a graph with vertex set  $G$  and edge set  $\{(g, h) | g^{-1}h \in C \cup C^{-1}\}$ . It is well-known that Cayley graphs are regular and vertex-transitive.

Suppose  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are two graphs. The Cartesian product  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ ,  $\Gamma_1 \square \Gamma_2$ , is a graph with vertex set  $V(\Gamma_1) \times V(\Gamma_2)$  such that two vertices  $(a, b)$  and  $(x, y)$  are adjacent in  $\Gamma_1 \square \Gamma_2$  if  $a = x$  and  $by \in E(H)$  or  $b = y$  and  $ax \in E(G)$ . The tensor product  $\Gamma_1 \times \Gamma_2$  of graphs  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  is a graph with the same vertex set  $V(\Gamma_1) \times V(\Gamma_2)$  and two vertices  $(a, b)$  and  $(x, y)$  are adjacent in  $\Gamma_1 \times \Gamma_2$  if and only if  $by \in E(H)$  and  $ax \in E(G)$ .

Let  $\Gamma$  be a graph and  $M \subseteq V(\Gamma)$ .  $M$  is called a module if for any  $x \notin M$ ,  $M \subseteq N(x)$  or  $M \cap N(x) = \emptyset$ . The trivial modules are empty set, singletons and the whole set  $V$ . A graph in which all modules are trivial is said to be primitive. A strong module is a module  $M$  such that for any other module  $M'$ , either  $M \cap M' = \emptyset$  or  $M \subseteq M'$  or  $M' \subseteq M$ . We now assume that  $M$  and  $M'$  two disjoint modules. If any vertex of  $M$  is adjacent to all vertices of  $M'$ , then we say  $M$  and  $M'$  are adjacent, and if there is no an edge such that one of its end points is belong to  $M$  and another in  $M'$  then we say  $M$  and  $M'$  are non-adjacent.

For a module  $M$ , if  $M \subset S$  and there is no module  $M'$  such that  $M \subset M' \subset S$ , then the module  $M$  is maximal with respect to a set  $S$  of vertices. We shall assume  $S = V$ , if the set  $S$  is not specified. Let for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $M_i$  be a module of graph  $\Gamma$  and  $P = \{M_1, \dots, M_k\}$  be a partition of the vertex set of a graph, then  $P$  is a modular partition of  $\Gamma$ . A non-trivial modular partition  $P = \{M_1, \dots, M_k\}$  which only contains maximal strong modules is a maximal modular partition. Notice that each graph has a unique maximal modular partition. Quotient graph whose vertices are modules belonging to the modular partition  $P$  of graph  $\Gamma$  is denoted by  $\Gamma/P$ . In this graph, two vertices of  $\Gamma/P$  are adjacent if and only if the corresponding modules are adjacent in  $\Gamma$  [7].

**Theorem 1.1.** (*Modular Decomposition Theorem*)[5,6] *For any graph  $\Gamma$ , one of the following three conditions is satisfied:*

- $\Gamma$  is not connected.
- $\bar{\Gamma}$  is not connected.
- $\Gamma$  and  $\bar{\Gamma}$  are connected and the quotient graph  $\Gamma/P$ , with  $P$  the maximal modular partition of  $\Gamma$ , is a primitive graph.

Throughout this paper we refer to [19] for group theory concepts and for graph theoretical concepts and notations, we refer to [24]. For the sake of completeness, in what follows we mention the presentation of the dihedral group  $D_{2n}$ , the semi-dihedral group  $SD_{8n}$ , the dicyclic group  $T_{4n}$  and the group  $V_{8n}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} D_{2n} &= \langle a, b \mid a^n = b^2 = e, bab = a^{-1} \rangle, \\ SD_{8n} &= \langle a, b \mid a^{4n} = b^2 = e, bab = a^{2n-1} \rangle, \\ T_{4n} &= \langle a, b \mid a^{2n} = 1, a^n = b^2, b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle, \\ V_{8n} &= \langle a, b \mid a^{2n} = b^4 = e, aba = b^{-1}, ab^{-1}a = b \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see the dicyclic group  $T_{4n}$  has order  $4n$  and the groups  $SD_{8n}$  and  $V_{8n}$  have order  $8n$ .

## 2. Main results

A vertex in a graph  $\Gamma$  is said to be even, if its degree is an even integer. There is a condition for Eulerian of a graph  $\Gamma$  which states that  $\Gamma$  is Eulerian if and only if all of its degrees are even.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group. The graph  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is Eulerian if and only if  $G$  is an odd order group.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $G$  is a group of order  $n$ . Then the degree of identity has to be  $n - 1$  and so  $n$  is odd. Conversely, suppose  $n$  is odd and  $\pi_e(G) = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ . Choose the non-identity vertex  $x$  in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  and assume that  $o(x) = a_i$ . Then

$$\text{deg}_{\mathcal{S}(G)}(x) = \Omega_{a_i}(G) + \sum_{a_i | a_j \neq e \text{ or } (a_j | a_i \& a_i \neq a_j)} \Omega_{a_j}(G).$$

If  $k_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , denotes the number of cyclic subgroups of order  $a_i$  then  $\Omega_{a_i}(G) = k\phi(a_i)$ , that  $\phi$  is the Euler's totient function. Since  $G$  has odd order, it does not have involutions and  $\phi(m)$ ,  $m \geq 3$ , is even. Thus for each  $a_i$ ,  $a_i \in \pi_e(G)$ ,  $\Omega_{a_i}(G)$  is even. Therefore, degree of every vertex in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is even and  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is Eulerian.  $\square$

In the next theorem, the relationship between connectedness of  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  and  $\Lambda(G)$  is studied.

**Theorem 2.2.** ([11]) *If the prime graph of a group  $G$  is disconnected then  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  is disconnected. In particular,  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is not Hamiltonian.*

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $\Delta_G$  is Hamiltonian then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  will be Hamiltonian.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $\Delta_G$  is Hamiltonian and  $T : e \sim a_1 \sim \dots \sim a_k \sim e$  is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $\Delta_G$ . Set  $\Xi(G) = \{x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{i\Omega_{a_i}(G)}\}$ . We construct a Hamiltonian cycle  $T'$  in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  as follows:

$$T' : \quad e \sim x_{11} \sim \dots \sim x_{1\Omega_{a_1}(G)} \sim x_{21} \sim \dots \sim x_{2\Omega_{a_2}(G)} \sim \dots \sim \\ x_{k1} \sim \dots \sim x_{k\Omega_{a_k}(G)} \sim e,$$

and so  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is Hamiltonian, as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.4.** *The main supergraph of the power graph of the following simple groups are not Hamiltonian:*

- (1)  ${}^2F_4(q)$ , where  $q = 2^{2m+1}$  and  $m \geq 1$ ;
- (2)  ${}^2G_2(q)$ , where  $q = 3^{2m+1}$  and  $m \geq 0$ ;
- (3)  $A_1(q)$ ,  $A_2(q)$ ,  $B_2(q)$ ,  $C_2(q)$  and  $S_4(q)$ , where  $q$  is an odd prime power;
- (4)  $F_4(2^m)$ ,  $m \geq 1$  and  $U_3(q)$ , where  $q$  is a prime power.

**Proof.** Apply Theorems 2.34 and 2.35 from [11].  $\square$

It is easy to see that the main supergraph of the power graph of the cyclic group of order  $p$ ,  $p$  is prime, is Hamiltonian. This simple result and Corollary 2.4 suggest the following conjecture:

**Conjecture 2.5.** *The main supergraph of the power graph of a non-abelian finite simple group is not Hamiltonian.*

**Theorem 2.6.** *If  $G$  is full exponent then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is 2-connected.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $x$  is an element of order  $\text{Exp}(G)$ . Then  $e$  and  $x$  are adjacent to all elements of the group. This proves that  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is 2-connected.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.7.** *If  $G$  is an abelian group, then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is 2-connected.*

**Proof.** To prove the theorem, it is enough to show that  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  is connected. Choose non-identity elements  $x, y \in \mathcal{S}^*(G)$ . Since  $G$  is abelian,  $xy = yx$ . If  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$ , then are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  too. This implies that  $o(x) \nmid o(y)$  and  $o(y) \nmid o(x)$ . Our main proof will consider the following two cases:

- (1)  $o(x)$  and  $o(y)$  are coprime. Since  $o(xy) = o(x)o(y)$ ,  $o(x) \mid o(xy)$  and  $o(y) \mid o(xy)$ . Thus  $x \sim xy \sim y$  is a path in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  and so  $x, y$  are vertices of a connected component of  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ .
- (2)  $n = (o(x), o(y)) \neq 1$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $o(x) > o(y)$ . Since  $o(x) \equiv n \pmod{o(y)}$ ,  $y^n = (xy)^{o(x)}$ . On the other hand,

$x^{o(y)} = (xy)^{o(y)}$  and so  $y \sim y^n \sim (xy)^{o(x)} \sim xy \sim (xy)^{o(y)} \sim x^{o(y)} \sim x$  is a path in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ . Hence  $x$  and  $y$  are in a connected component of  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ .

This proves that  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  is connected.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be groups such that  $(|G|, |H|) = 1$ . Then  $\mathcal{S}(G \times H) = \mathcal{S}(G) \times \mathcal{S}(H)$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose  $(x, y)$  and  $(a, b)$  are adjacent vertices in  $\mathcal{S}(G \times H)$ . Then  $o((x, y)) \mid o((a, b))$  or  $o((a, b)) \mid o((x, y))$ . Since  $G$  and  $H$  have coprime order,  $o(x)o(y) \mid o(a)o(b)$  or  $o(a)o(b) \mid o(x)o(y)$ . On the other hand,  $(o(a), o(y)) = (o(b), o(x)) = 1$ . Hence  $o(a)o(b) \mid o(x)o(y)$  implies that  $o(a) \mid o(x)$  and  $o(b) \mid o(y)$ . Similarly,  $o(x)o(y) \mid o(a)o(b)$  implies that  $o(x) \mid o(a)$  and  $o(y) \mid o(b)$ . Therefore,  $a, x$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$ , and  $b, y$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}(H)$  which proves that  $(a, b)$  and  $(x, y)$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}(G) \times \mathcal{S}(H)$ . A similar argument as above shows that if  $(a, b)$  and  $(x, y)$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}(G) \times \mathcal{S}(H)$ , then  $ax \in E(\mathcal{S}(G))$  and  $by \in E(\mathcal{S}(H))$ .  $\square$

The proof of the previous lemma shows that in general  $\mathcal{S}(G) \times \mathcal{S}(H)$  is a subgraph of  $\mathcal{S}(G \times H)$ . By [12, Theorem 5.29], if  $G$  and  $H$  are non-empty graphs, then  $G \times H$  is connected if and only if both of  $G$  and  $H$  are connected and at least one of them are non-bipartite. Moreover, if  $G$  and  $H$  are connected and bipartite, then  $G \times H$  has exactly two connected components. In the following theorem, we apply this result to prove that the main supergraph of the power graph of a nilpotent group is 2-connected.

**Theorem 2.9.** *If  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is 2-connected.*

**Proof.** Since  $G$  is nilpotent,  $G \cong P_1 \times \dots \times P_r$ , where  $P_i$ 's are all Sylow  $P_i$ -subgroups of  $G$ . By Lemma 2.8,  $\mathcal{S}(G) \cong \mathcal{S}(P_1 \times \dots \times P_r) = \mathcal{S}(P_1) \times \dots \times \mathcal{S}(P_r)$  and so  $\mathcal{S}^*(G) \cong \mathcal{S}^*(P_1 \times \dots \times P_r) = \mathcal{S}^*(P_1) \times \dots \times \mathcal{S}^*(P_r)$ . Since  $\mathcal{S}^*(P_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , are complete, they are non-bipartite and connected. This shows that  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$  is connected, as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group. If  $xy \in E(\Delta(G))$  then  $x$  and  $y$  are in the same component of  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ .*

**Proof.** By definition,  $V(\Delta(G)) = V(\mathcal{S}^*(G))$ . Suppose,  $x, y$  are adjacent vertices of  $\Delta(G)$ . So  $xy = yx$ . If  $o(x) \mid o(y)$  or  $o(y) \mid o(x)$  then  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ . We now assume that  $o(x) \nmid o(y)$  and  $o(y) \nmid o(x)$ . We consider two cases that  $(o(x), o(y)) = 1$  or  $(o(x), o(y)) \neq 1$ .

- (1)  $(o(x), o(y)) = 1$ . In this case,  $o(xy) = o(x)o(y)$ . This gives a path  $x \sim xy \sim y$  in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ , as desired.

- (2)  $(o(x), o(y)) \neq 1$ . Choose the prime number  $p$  such that  $p \mid o(x)$  and  $p \mid o(y)$ .  
 If  $t \in G$  has order  $p$  then  $x \sim t \sim y$  is a path in  $\mathcal{S}^*(G)$ .

This completes the proof. □

**Corollary 2.11.** *If  $\Delta(G)$  is complete then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is 2-connected.*

It is clear that if  $G$  and  $H$  are groups with the same order such that for each divisor  $d$  of  $|G|$ ,  $\Omega_d(G) = \Omega_d(H)$  then  $\mathcal{S}(G) \cong \mathcal{S}(H)$ . The converse of this result is not generally correct. To prove, we consider  $G = Z_4 \times Z_4$  and  $H = Z_2 \times Z_4 \times Z_2$ . Since  $G$  and  $H$  are 2-groups,  $\mathcal{S}(G) \cong \mathcal{S}(H)$ . But  $\Omega_4(G) = 8 < 12 = \Omega_4(H)$  and  $\Omega_2(G) = 7 > 3 = \Omega_2(H)$ . On the other hand, it is possible to find finite groups  $G$  and  $H$  such that  $\mathcal{S}(G) \cong \mathcal{S}(H)$ , but  $\pi_e(G) \neq \pi_e(H)$ . An example is the pair  $(G, H) = (D_8, Z_8)$ . Finally, it is possible to construct the pair  $(G, H)$  of finite groups such that  $\pi_e(G) = \pi_e(H)$ , but  $\mathcal{S}(G) \not\cong \mathcal{S}(H)$ . To see this, it is enough to assume that  $G = D_{20}$  and  $H = Z_2 \times Z_{10}$ . In what follows, we prove that in the group under same specific conditions the equality of spectrum and order implies that the main supergraph are isomorphic.

**Theorem 2.12.** (See [1,23]). *Suppose  $G_1$  is a finite group and  $G_2$  is one of the following finite groups:*

- (1) *A finite simple group,*
- (2) *A symmetric group  $S_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,*
- (3) *Automorphism group of a sporadic simple group,*

*then  $G_1 \cong G_2$  if and only if  $|G_1| = |G_2|$  and  $\pi_e(G_1) = \pi_e(G_2)$ .*

**Corollary 2.13.** *If  $G_1$  is a finite group and  $G_2$  is one of the following finite groups:*

- (1) *A finite simple group,*
- (2) *A symmetric group  $S_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,*
- (3) *Automorphism group of a sporadic simple group.*

*If  $|G_1| = |G_2|$  and  $\pi_e(G_1) = \pi_e(G_2)$  then  $\mathcal{S}(G_1) \cong \mathcal{S}(G_2)$ .*

In the following result, the finite groups  $G$  in which the main supergraph  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is vertex transitive are classified.

**Theorem 2.14.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group, then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is a vertex transitive if and only if  $G$  is a  $p$ -group. There is no group  $G$  such that  $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{S}(G)}$  is vertex transitive.*

**Proof.** If  $G$  is a  $p$ -group then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is complete and so it is a Cayley graph. Conversely, we assume that  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is vertex-transitive, where  $G$  has order  $n$ . Since  $\text{deg}_{\mathcal{S}(G)}(e) = n - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  has to be complete and so  $G$  is a  $p$ -group.

We now assume that  $G$  is a finite group such that  $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{S}(G)}$  is vertex transitive. Then each vertex of  $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{S}(G)}$  will have the in-degree  $n - 1$  and out-degree zero which is impossible.  $\square$

The present authors [11], proved that for each finite group  $G$  we have  $|\pi(G)| \leq \alpha(\mathcal{S}(G)) \leq |\pi_e(G)| - 1$  with right-hand equality if and only if  $G$  is an *EPO*-group. Applying this result, we have:

**Theorem 2.15.** *If  $G$  is a finite group of order  $n$  then  $n + 1 - |\pi_e(G)| \leq \beta(\mathcal{S}(G)) \leq n - |\pi(G)|$ . The left-hand equality is attained if and only if  $G$  is an *EPO*-group.*

**Theorem 2.16.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group.  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is complete if and only if  $G \cong Z_2$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is a complete graph. Then  $G$  is an *EPO*-group and there is a unique elements of each order. So,  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is a star graph and by [11, Corollary 2.18],  $G \cong Z_2$ . The converse is obvious.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.17.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $> 2$ . Then  $G$  has full exponent if and only if  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is disconnected.*

**Proof.** If  $G$  is full exponent group of order  $n$ ,  $n > 2$  [11, Theorem 2.15 ], there are at least two elements of degree  $n - 1$  in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$ . This proves that  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is disconnected. To prove the converse, we show that if  $G$  is not a full exponent group of order  $n$ ,  $n > 2$ , then  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is connected. Suppose  $|G| = p_1^{n_1} \dots p_k^{n_k}$ . If  $k = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is complete and  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is an empty graph, as desired. Suppose  $k \geq 2$ . Define

$$V_i = \{g \in G \mid 1 \neq o(g) \mid p_i^{n_i}\}.$$

Then for each  $i$ , the graph  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  has an induced subgraph isomorphic to  $\overline{K_{|V_i|}}$  in such a way that every element  $x \in V_i$  is adjacent to every element  $y \in V_j$ ,  $i \neq j$ . Thus the induced subgraph  $[\bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i]$  is connected. Suppose  $x, y \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i$ ,  $o(x) = q_1^{\alpha_1} \dots q_r^{\alpha_r}$  and  $o(y) = q_1^{\beta_1} \dots q_s^{\beta_s}$ ,  $r \leq s$ . If  $(o(x), o(y)) = 1$ , then  $xy \in E(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)})$  as desired. We now assume that  $d = (o(x), o(y)) \neq 1$ . If there exists a prime number  $p$  such that  $p \nmid d$  then we choose an element  $z$  of order  $p$  in  $G$ . So  $x \sim z \sim y$  is a path connecting  $x$  and  $y$  in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$ . Hence, it is enough to assume that, for any  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $p_i \mid d$ . Suppose  $o(x) = p_1^{\gamma_1} \dots p_k^{\gamma_k}$  and  $o(y) = p_1^{\delta_1} \dots p_k^{\delta_k}$ . If  $o(x) \nmid o(y)$  and  $o(y) \nmid o(x)$  then  $xy \in E(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)})$ . Suppose  $o(x) \mid o(y)$  and choose  $i$  such that  $\gamma_i \neq \alpha_i$ . Then  $x \sim x_i \sim y$  is a path in  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.18.** *If  $G$  is a full exponent group, then the number of connected components of  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  is  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}) = \varphi(G) + 1$ , where  $\varphi(G) = |\{a \in G \mid o(a) = \text{Exp}(G)\}|$ .*



**Proof.** Suppose  $G$  is a full exponent group of order  $p_1^{n_1} \dots p_k^{n_k}$ , where,  $p_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$  are distinct primes and  $k > 1$ . Similar to the Theorem 2.17, we define

$$V_i = \{g \in G \mid 1 \neq o(g) \mid p_i^{n_i}\}.$$

By Theorem 2.17, the induced subgraph on  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i$  is connected. Suppose  $x, y \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i$ . If  $o(x), o(y) \notin \{|G|, \text{Exp}(G)\}$  then by similar argument as in Theorem 2.17, there exists an element  $u \in \bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i$ , such that  $x \sim u \sim y$  is path in  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$ . We now assume that  $o(x) \in \{|G|, \text{Exp}(G)\}$ . Then  $\{x\}$  is a component of  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}$  and so the number of connected components is  $\varphi(G) + 1$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.19.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group. Then,*

- (1) *if  $\text{Exp}(G) = m$ , then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}) = k\phi(m) + 1$ , where  $k$  is the number of cyclic subgroups of order  $m$  in  $G$ ;*
- (2) *if  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \varphi(G_i) + 1$ , where  $G_i$ 's are Sylow subgroups of  $G$ ;*
- (3)  *$c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G)}) = \phi(|G|) + 1$  if and only if the number of cyclic subgroups of order  $\text{Exp}(G)$  in  $G$  is  $\frac{|G|}{\text{Exp}(G)}$ .*

**Proof.** Apply Theorems 2.2, 2.6, 2.8 and 3.2 from [22].  $\square$

**Corollary 2.20.** *The following hold:*

- (1) *if  $2^k \neq n \geq 3$  is an even positive integer then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(D_{2n})}) = \phi(n) + 1$ , and if  $n$  is odd then  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(D_{2n})}$  is connected;*
- (2) *if  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(S_n)}$  is connected and if  $n \geq 4$ , then  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(A_n)}$  is connected;*
- (3) *if  $n = 2^k$ , then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(SD_{8n})}) = 8n - 1$  and if  $n \neq 2^k$ , then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(SD_{8n})}) = \phi(4n) + 1$ ;*
- (4) *if  $n$  is odd, then  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(T_{4n})}$  is connected and if  $n = 2^k$ , then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(T_{4n})}) = 4n - 1$ . If  $n \neq 2^k$  and  $n$  is an even number, then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(T_{4n})}) = \phi(2n) + 1$ ;*
- (5) *if  $n$  is odd, then  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(V_{8n})}$  is connected. If  $n = 2^k$ , then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(V_{8n})}) = 8n - 1$  and if  $n \neq 2^k$  and  $n$  is an even number, then  $c(\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(V_{8n})}) = \phi(2n) + 1$ .*

By the graph structure of  $\mathcal{S}(G) = \Delta_G[K_{\Omega_{a_1}(G)}, \dots, K_{\Omega_{a_k}(G)}]$  and definition of module, one can see that every  $K_{\Omega_{a_i}(G)}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , in  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  is a maximal strong module. Also  $P = \{V(K_{\Omega_{a_1}(G)}), \dots, V(K_{\Omega_{a_k}(G)})\}$  is a modular partition of  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  and quotient graph  $\mathcal{S}(G)/P$  is isomorphic to  $\Delta_G$ .

**Theorem 2.21.** *Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two finite groups. We also assume that these groups are not full exponent, they are not  $p$ -groups, for some prime number  $p$ , and the graphs  $\Delta_{G_1}$  and  $\Delta_{G_2}$  are primitive. If  $\mathcal{S}^*(G_1) \cong \mathcal{S}^*(G_2)$ , then  $|G_1| = |G_2|$  and  $nse(G_1) = nse(G_2)$ .*

**Proof.** By Theorem 1.1, since  $\Delta_{G_1}$  and  $\Delta_{G_2}$  are primitive,  $\mathcal{S}^*(G_1)$ ,  $\mathcal{S}^*(G_2)$ ,  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G_1)}$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{S}^*(G_2)}$  are connected. In addition, each graph has a unique maximal modular partition and  $\mathcal{S}^*(G_1) \cong \mathcal{S}^*(G_2)$  implies that  $\Delta_{G_1} \cong \Delta_{G_2}$  and so  $|G_1| = |G_2|$ . This shows that  $nse(G_1) = nse(G_2)$ , as desired.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.22.** [17,18,21] *Suppose  $G, H$  are finite groups and one of the following are satisfied:*

- $H$  is a sporadic simple group;
- $H$  is a Mathieu group;
- $H$  is the symmetric group  $S_r$ , where  $r$  is prime number.

*If  $|G| = |H|$  and  $nse(G) = nse(H)$ , then  $G \cong H$ .*

**Theorem 2.23.** *Suppose  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  satisfy the conditions of Theorem 2.21. We also assume that one of the following conditions are satisfied:*

- $G_1$  is a sporadic simple group;
- $G_1$  is a Mathieu group;
- $G_1$  is the symmetric group  $S_r$ , where  $r$  is prime number.

*If  $\mathcal{S}^*(G_1) \cong \mathcal{S}^*(G_2)$ , then  $G_1 \cong G_2$ .*

**Proof.** Apply Theorems 2.21 and 2.22.  $\square$

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