

## ON THE CAYLEY GRAPHS OF SYMMETRIC GROUP $S_4$

F. RAEI  

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $S_n$  be the symmetric group of degree  $n$ . In this paper, we classify non-isomorphic Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  of valency 3. Moreover, we verify that there are exactly 10 non-isomorphic Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  with valency 3. Also, we classify the valency 3 CI-graphs of Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  and we prove that  $S_4$  is not a CI-group and does not possess the 3-CI-property. We show that there are at least 10 non-isomorphic Cayley graphs of the symmetric group  $S_n$  with valency 3.

**Keywords:** Cayley graph, Symmetric group, Isomorphism.

**2020 MSC:** 05C50, 05A05.

### 1. Introduction

Arthur Cayley introduced Cayley graphs in 1878. Cayley graphs serve as a bridge between group theory in abstract algebra and graph theory in combinatorics. These graphs elegantly encode group elements and their interactions [7, 12]. We focus on symmetric groups, denoted by  $S_n$ , for a natural number  $n$ . The symmetric groups are key objects in group theory and are fundamental in various areas of mathematics, such as combinatorics and cryptography. The Cayley graphs of the symmetric group  $S_n$  and the alternating group  $A_n$  have been studied in several papers.

In [11] Gu and Li showed that there are exactly 22 non-isomorphic Cayley graphs of  $A_4$ . The number of undirected Cayley graphs of  $S_n$  and  $A_n$  has been determined by Adiga and Ariamanesh in [1]. They also showed that there are only 8 Cayley graphs of  $S_3$  and 4 Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  of valency 2, up to isomorphism. Recently, Fadzil, Sarmin and Erfanian [5] studied the eigenvalues and the energy of the Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  with valency up to 2. Moreover, in [6] they examined the Cayley graphs of alternating groups with valency up to 2, computing their eigenvalues and energy. The classification of finite CI-groups is an interesting problem related to CI-graphs. In [11] it has been shown that the group  $A_4$  is a CI-graph, and all disconnected Cayley graphs of  $A_5$  are also CI-graphs.

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✉ f.raei@cfu.ac.ir, ORCID: 0009-0008-4504-4804

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In this paper, we investigate the Cayley graphs of symmetric groups, focusing particularly on the valency 3 Cayley graphs of  $S_4$ . We also study the CI-graphs of the Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  with valency 3. Additionally, we establish a relationship between the Cayley graph of  $S_{n+1}$  and the Cayley graph of  $S_n$  for a fixed subset  $S$ .

## 2. Preliminaries

Here we introduce some definitions and preliminary results from graph theory and group theory. Readers can refer to the book [9], for terminology and notations which have not been defined in this paper.

Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a graph with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $E$ . Suppose that  $x, y \in V$ . The vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are adjacent if  $xy \in E$ . For a vertex  $x \in V$  the set of all neighbors of  $x$  is defined as  $N_\Gamma(x) = N(x) = \{y \in V : xy \in E\}$ . The degree of  $x$  in the graph  $\Gamma$  is defined as  $d(x) = |N_\Gamma(x)|$ . The graph  $\Gamma$  is an  $m$ -regular graph if, for each  $x \in V$ ,  $d(x) = m$ . A graph  $\Gamma$  is said to be connected if, for each  $x, y \in V$ , there is a walk between  $x$  and  $y$  in  $\Gamma$ . Let  $K_n$  be a complete graph on  $n$  vertices and  $C_n$  be an undirected cycle on  $n$  vertices.

The disjoint union of the graphs  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  and  $\Lambda = (U, F)$ , for  $V \cap U = \emptyset$ , is a graph with the vertex set  $V \cup U$  and edge set  $E \cup F$ ; we denote it by  $\Gamma \cup \Lambda$ .

The Cartesian product of the graphs  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  and  $\Lambda = (U, F)$  is a graph with vertex set  $V \times U$  where two vertices  $(v_1, u_1)$  and  $(v_2, u_2)$  are adjacent if and only if  $[v_1 = v_2 \text{ and } u_1 u_2 \in F]$  or  $[u_1 = u_2 \text{ and } v_1 v_2 \in E]$ ; we denote it by  $\Gamma \square \Lambda$ .

Moreover, if there exists a bijection  $g : V \rightarrow U$  such that  $xy \in E$  if and only if  $x^g y^g \in F$ , where  $x^g = g(x)$ , then the graphs  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  are called *isomorphic*. Such a bijection between  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  is referred as an *isomorphism*.

Suppose that  $G$  is a finite group with the identity  $1_G$ . Let  $S$  be a subset of the group  $G$  such that  $1_G \notin S$  and  $S$  is an inverse-closed subset, meaning  $S = S^{-1}$ , where  $S^{-1} := \{s^{-1} | s \in S\}$ . The associated *Cayley graph*, denoted by  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ , is a graph where the vertices are the elements of  $G$ , and two distinct vertices  $g, h \in G$  are adjacent if and only if  $gh^{-1} \in S$ . The number  $|S|$  is called the *valency* of the Cayley graph. Since  $S$  is an inverse-closed subset of  $G$ ,  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is an undirected graph.

**Proposition 2.1.** [2] Suppose that  $S$  is a subset of the group  $G$  such that  $1_G \notin S$ ,  $S = S^{-1}$ , and  $|S| = m$ . Then  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is an  $m$ -regular graph.

Thus, any Cayley graph of valency  $m$  is an  $m$ -regular graph. It is easy to see that a Cayley graph  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is connected if and only if  $G = \langle S \rangle$ , meaning  $S$  is a generating set of the group  $G$ . Therefore, if  $G \neq \langle S \rangle$ , then  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is disconnected. In this case, studying its connected components becomes important.

**Proposition 2.2.** [2] Suppose that  $S$  is a subset of the group  $G$  such that  $1_G \notin S$  and  $S = S^{-1}$ . Then all components of  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  are isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ .

Thus, for a disconnected Cayley graph, all of its connected components are isomorphic to each other.

Here, we explain the definition of CI-graphs [11]. Let  $S$  and  $S'$  be two subsets of the group  $G$  such that  $1_G \notin S$ ,  $1_G \notin S'$ ,  $S = S^{-1}$ , and  $S' = S'^{-1}$ . Suppose that  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ; then  $\sigma$  acts naturally on  $G$ . If  $S' = S^\sigma$ , then  $\sigma$  induces an isomorphism from  $\text{Cay}(G; S)$  to  $\text{Cay}(G; S')$ , which is called a *Cayley isomorphism*. The graph  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is called a CI-graph (where CI represents Cayley isomorphic) of the group  $G$  if  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(G, S')$  implies that there exists a permutation  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$  such that  $S' = S^\sigma$ . Moreover, for a natural number  $k$ , the group  $G$  has the  $k$ -CI-property, if all of the Cayley graphs of  $G$  of valency  $k$  are CI-graphs. A group  $G$  is called a CI-group if every Cayley graph of  $G$  is a CI-graph.

Let  $n$  be a natural number. Consider the group of all permutations on the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  with function composition as its group operation. This group is called the symmetric group, denoted  $S_n$ . The group  $S_n$  has  $n!$  elements and it is not abelian for  $n \geq 3$ . The subgroup of all even permutations in  $S_n$  is denoted by  $A_n$  and it is called the alternating group. In this paper, we focus on the symmetric group  $S_4$ . The elements of  $S_4$  with their cycle types are:

$\{(1), (12), (13), (14), (23), (24), (34), (123), (132), (124), (142), (134), (143), (234), (243), (1234), (1432), (1243), (1342), (1324), (1423), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$ .

### 3. Main Results

Our purpose here is to classify Cayley graphs of the group  $S_4$  of valency 3. For different subsets  $S$  of the group  $S_4$  of valency 3 such that  $(1) \notin S$  and  $S = S^{-1}$ , we consider the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$ . Thus, we first determine the different classes of the subset  $S$  that satisfy these necessary conditions.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$  such that  $|S| = 3$ ,  $(1) \notin S$  and  $S = S^{-1}$ . Then, all possible subsets  $S$  up to isomorphism are in Table 1, where  $i, j, l$  and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ .

*Proof.* Since for each distinct element  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , we have  $(ij)^{-1} = (ij)$ ,  $(ij)(lk)^{-1} = (ij)(lk)$ ,  $(ijl)^{-1} = (ilj)$  and  $(ijkl)^{-1} = (iklj)$ . Thus, it is clear that each subset  $S$  in Table 1 has the required properties. Moreover, it is straightforward to check that every subset of  $S_n$  with the desired conditions is isomorphic to one of the cases mentioned in Table 1.  $\square$

TABLE 1. Possible subsets  $S$  for  $S_4$ .

No.	The subset $S$ up to isomorphism
1	$\{(ij), (il), (jl)\}$
2	$\{(12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\}$
3	$\{(ij), (lk), (ij)(lk)\}$
4	$\{(ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$
5	$\{(ij), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj)\}$
6	$\{(ij), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$
7	$\{(ij)(lk), (ijlk), (iklj)\}$
8	$\{(ij), (ijl), (ilj)\}$
9	$\{(ij), (ij)(lk), (il)(jk)\}$
10	$\{(ij)(lk), (ijl), (ilj)\}$
11	$\{(ij), (il), (jk)\}$
12	$\{(ij), (ijlk), (iklj)\}$
13	$\{(ij), (ilk), (ikl)\}$
14	$\{(ij), (il), (il)(jk)\}$
15	$\{(ij), (jl), (ij)(lk)\}$
16	$\{(ij), (il), (ik)\}$

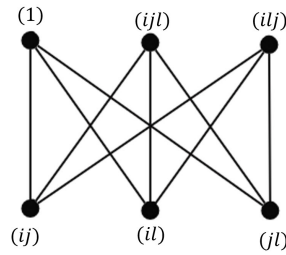
In the next part of this section, we will determine the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  up to isomorphism for each type of the set  $S$  listed in Table 1.

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$  such that  $S = \{(ij), (il), (jl)\}$ , where  $i, j$ , and  $l$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\cup_{t=1}^4 K_{3,3}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (il), (jl)\}$ , we have:

$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (ilj), (ijl), (jl), (il), (ij)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 1, which is isomorphic to the graph  $K_{3,3}$ .

FIGURE 1. The Graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S) \simeq K_{3,3}$

By Proposition 2.2, all components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  are isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . Since  $\langle S \rangle$  has 4 cosets in  $S_4$ , thus  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to the disjoint union of 4 copies of  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . So,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^4 K_{3,3}.$$

□

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $S, S'$  and  $S''$  be subsets of  $S_4$ , such that:*

$$S = \{(12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\},$$

$$S' = \{(ij), (lk), (ij)(lk)\},$$

and

$$S'' = \{(ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\},$$

where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$ ,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  and  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S'')$  are isomorphic to the graph  $\cup_{t=1}^6 K_4$ .

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\}$ , we have:

$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 2A, which is isomorphic to the graph  $K_4$ .

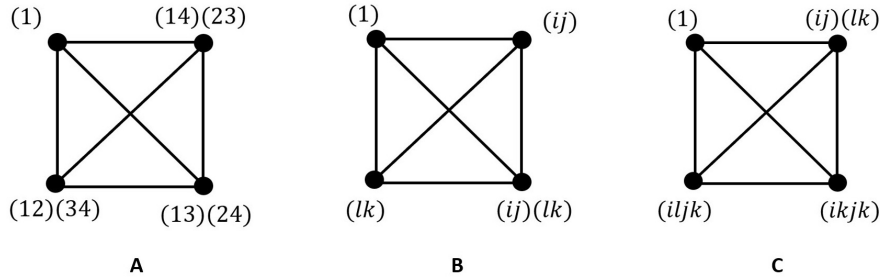


FIGURE 2. The Graphs  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ ,  $\text{Cay}(\langle S' \rangle, S')$ ,  $\text{Cay}(\langle S'' \rangle, S'')$

By Proposition 2.2, all components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  are isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . Thus,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to the disjoint union of 6 copies of  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ ,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^6 K_4.$$

Now consider the subset  $S'$ . Since  $S' = \{(ij), (lk), (ij)(lk)\}$ , we have:

$$\langle S' \rangle = \{(1), (ij), (lk), (ij)(lk)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S' \rangle, S')$  is shown in Figure 2B, which is also isomorphic to the graph  $K_4$ .

Again, by Proposition 2.2, all components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S' \rangle, S')$ . Thus,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S') \simeq \cup_{t=1}^6 K_4.$$

For the third case, we have  $S'' = \{(ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$ , so

$$\langle S'' \rangle = \{(1), (ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S'' \rangle, S'')$  is shown in Figure 2C, and it is isomorphic to the graph  $K_4$ .

Similar to the previous case, we have

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S'') \simeq \cup_{t=1}^6 K_4.$$

□

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $S, S'$  and  $S''$  be subsets of  $S_4$  such that:*

$$S = \{(ij), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj)\},$$

$$S' = \{(ij), (iljk), (ikjl)\},$$

and

$$S'' = \{(ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\},$$

where  $i, j, l$  and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$ ,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  and  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S'')$  are isomorphic to the graph  $\cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2$ .

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (ij), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj), (ij)(lk), (lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 3A, which is isomorphic to the graph  $C_4 \square K_2$ .

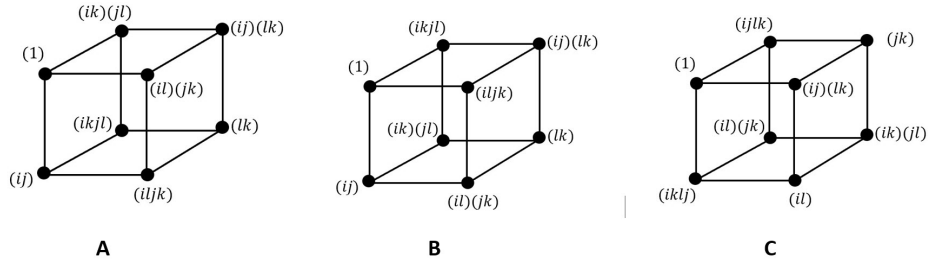


FIGURE 3. The Graphs  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ ,  $\text{Cay}(\langle S' \rangle, S')$ ,  $\text{Cay}(\langle S'' \rangle, S'')$

Now, by Proposition 2.2, all components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  are isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . Thus,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to the disjoint union of 3 copies of  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ :

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2.$$

For the subset  $S'$ , since  $S' = \{(ij), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S' \rangle = \{(1), (ij), (lk), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj), (ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S' \rangle, S')$  is shown in Figure 3B, and it is isomorphic to the graph  $C_4 \square K_2$ .

Again, by Proposition 2.2, we have

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S') \simeq \cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2.$$

For the third case, we have  $S'' = \{(ij)(lk), (ijkl), (iklj)\}$ , so

$$\langle S'' \rangle = \{(1), (ij), (lk), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj), (ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S'' \rangle, S'')$  is shown in Figure 3C, which is isomorphic to the graph  $K_4$ . Similar to the previous case, we have

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S'') \simeq \cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2.$$

□

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij), (ijl), (ilj)\},$$

*where  $i, j$ , and  $l$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to the graph  $\cup_{t=1}^4 C_3 \square K_2$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (ijl), (ilj)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (ij), (il), (jl), (ijl), (ilj)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 4, which is isomorphic to the graph  $C_3 \square K_2$ .

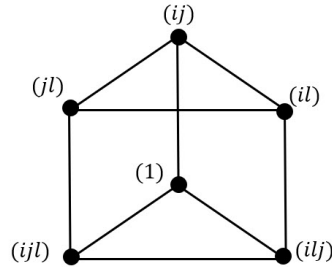


FIGURE 4. The Graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S) \simeq C_3 \square K_2$

Now, by Proposition 2.2, we have 4 components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  which are all isomorphic to  $C_3 \square K_2$ . Thus,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^4 C_3 \square K_2.$$

□

**Proposition 3.6.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij), (ij)(lk), (il)(jk)\},$$

*where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\cup_{t=1}^3 \Gamma_1$ , where  $\Gamma_1$  is isomorphic to the graph in Figure 5A.*

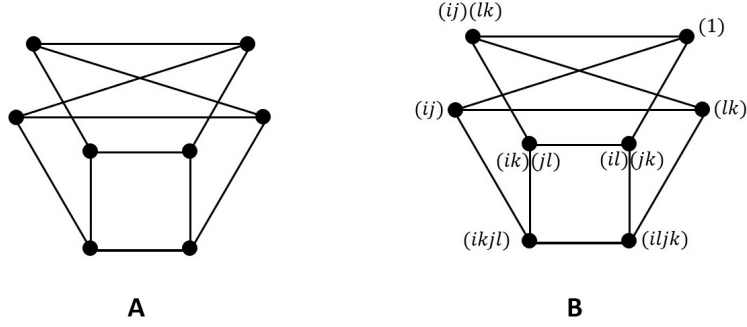


FIGURE 5. A: The Graph  $\Gamma_1$       B: The Graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (ij)(lk), (il)(jk)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (ij)(lk), (il)(jk), (ij), (lk), (ik)(jl), (iljk), (ikjl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 5B.

Now, by Proposition 2.2, we have 3 components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  which are all isomorphic to  $\Gamma_1$ . Thus,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^3 \Gamma_1.$$

□

**Proposition 3.7.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij)(lk), (ijl), (ilj)\},$$

*where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\cup_{t=1}^2 \Gamma_2$ , where  $\Gamma_2$  is isomorphic to the graph in Figure 6A.*

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij)(lk), (ijl), (ilj)\}$ , we have

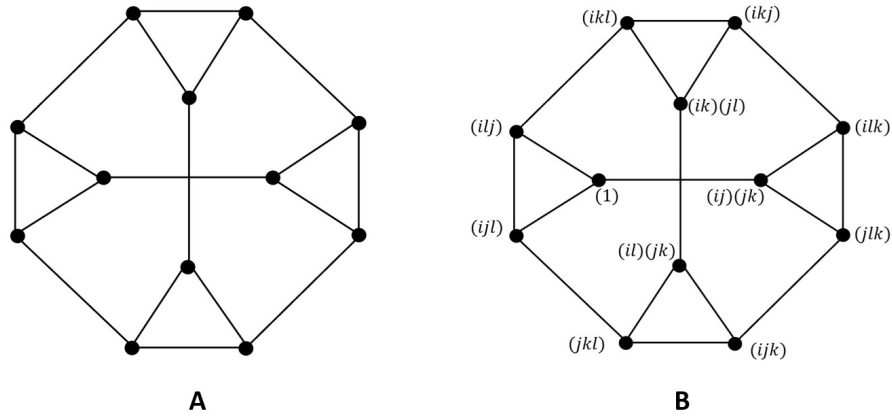
$$\langle S \rangle = \{(1), (ij)(lk), (ijl), (ilj), (ikl), (ikj), (ik)(jl), (il)(jk), (ilk), (jlk), (ijk), (jkl)\}.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$  is shown in Figure 6B. Now, by Proposition 2.2, we have 2 components of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  which are all isomorphic to  $\Gamma_2$ . Thus,

$$\text{Cay}(S_4, S) \simeq \cup_{t=1}^2 \Gamma_2.$$

□




 FIGURE 6. A: The Graph  $\Gamma_2$       B: The Graph  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ 

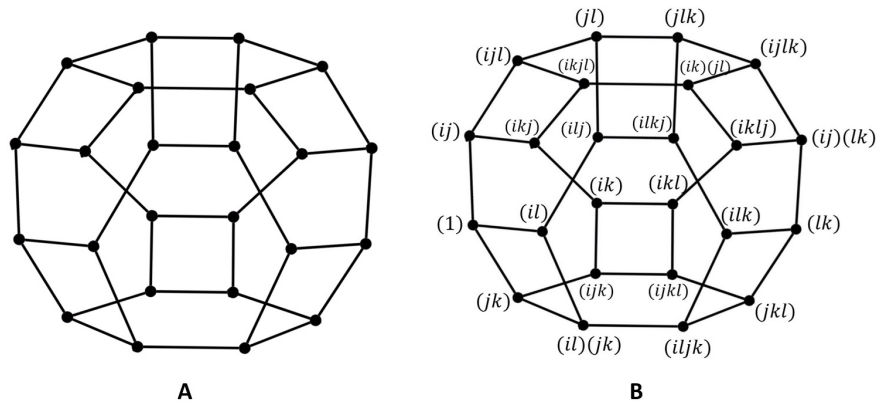
**Proposition 3.8.** Let  $S$  and  $S'$  be subsets of  $S_4$ , such that

$$S = \{(ij), (il), (jk)\}$$

and

$$S' = \{(ij), (ijkl), (iklj)\},$$

where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  and  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  are isomorphic to  $\Gamma_3$ , where  $\Gamma_3$  is the graph in Figure 7A.


 FIGURE 7. A: The Graph  $\Gamma_3$       B: The Graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$ 

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (il), (jk)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = S_4.$$

For the subset  $S'$ , since  $S' = \{(ij), (ijkl), (iklj)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S' \rangle = S_4.$$

Now, define a bijection  $g : S_n \rightarrow S_n$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} (jlk)^g &= (ilj), (ilj)^g = (jlk), (ikl)^g = (ijk), (ijk)^g = (ikl), \\ (jkl)^g &= (ijl), (ilk)^g = (ikl), (ikj)^g = (ilk), (ijl)^g = (jkl), \\ (jl)^g &= (ijkl), (ilkj)^g = (ik), (ik)^g = (ilkj), (ijkl)^g = (jl), \\ (jk)^g &= (iklj), (il)^g = (ijlk), (iklj)^g = (jk), (ijlk)^g = (il). \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.9.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij), (ilk), (ikl)\},$$

where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_4$ , where  $\Gamma_4$  is the graph in Figure 8A.

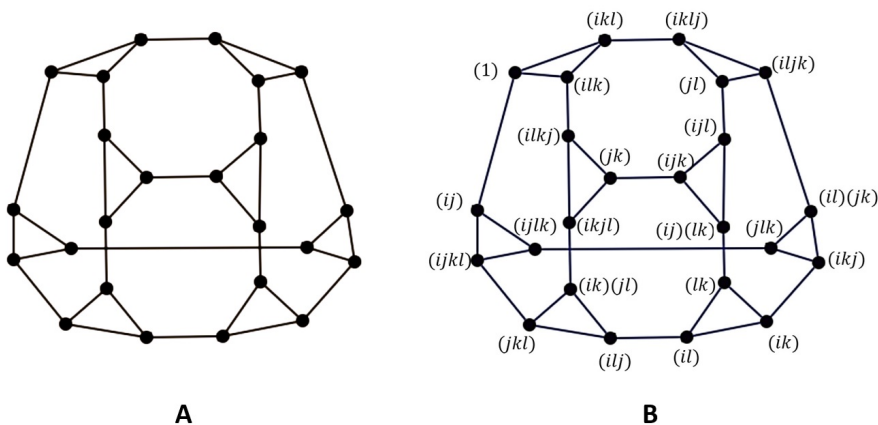


FIGURE 8. A:The Graph  $\Gamma_4$       B:The Graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (ilk), (ikl)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = S_4.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is shown in Figure 8B. Thus, it is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_4$  in Figure 8A.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.10.** *Let  $S$  and  $S'$  be subsets of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij), (il), (il)(jk)\}$$

*and*

$$S' = \{(ij), (jl), (ij)(lk)\},$$

*where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  and  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  are isomorphic to  $\Gamma_5$ , where  $\Gamma_5$  is the graph in Figure 9A.*

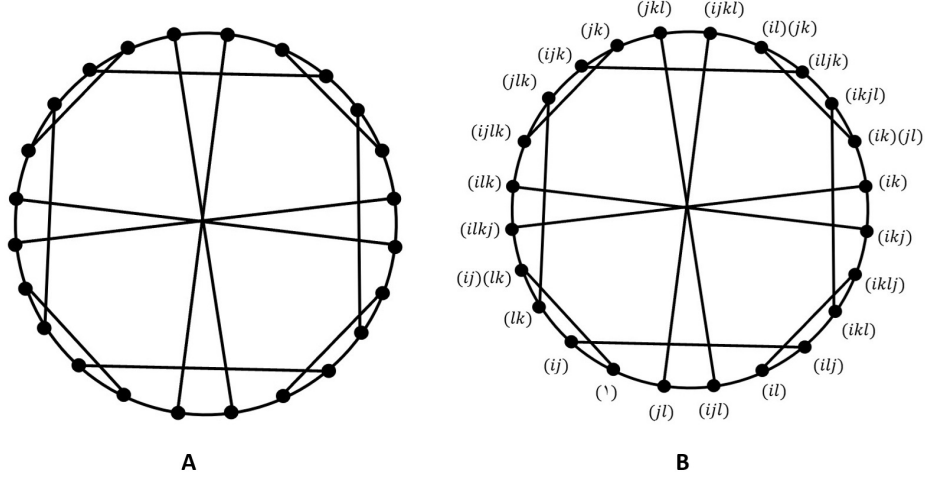


FIGURE 9. A: The Graph  $\Gamma_5$       B: The Graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (il), (il)(jk)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = S_4.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is shown in Figure 9B. Thus, it is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_5$  in Figure 9A.

For the subset  $S'$ , since  $S' = \{(ij), (jl), (ij)(lk)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S' \rangle = S_4.$$

Now, define a bijection  $g : S_n \rightarrow S_n$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} (il)(jk)^g &= (ij)(lk), (ik)(jl)^g = (il)(jk), (ij)(lk)^g = (ik)(jl), (jlk)^g = (ikl), \\ (ikl)^g &= (ijk), (ijk)^g = (jlk), (jkl)^g = (ilk), (ilk)^g = (ikj), \\ (ikj)^g &= (jkl), (lk)^g = (ik), (ikjl)^g = (ijkl), (iljk)^g = (ilkj), \\ (ij)^g &= (jl), (jl)^g = (il), (ilkj)^g = (iklj), (ik)^g = (jk), (jk)^g = (lk), \\ (ijkl)^g &= (ijlk), (il)^g = (ij), (iklj)^g = (iljk), (ijlk)^g = (ikjl). \end{aligned}$$

Any other elements of  $S_n$  are mapped to themselves by  $g$ . It is easy to see that  $g$  is an isomorphism between  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  and  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$ . Thus, the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S')$  is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_5$  in Figure 9A.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.11.** *Let  $S$  be a subset of  $S_4$ , such that*

$$S = \{(ij), (il), (ik)\},$$

*where  $i, j, l$ , and  $k$  are distinct elements in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Then,  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_6$ , where  $\Gamma_6$  is the graph in Figure 10A.*

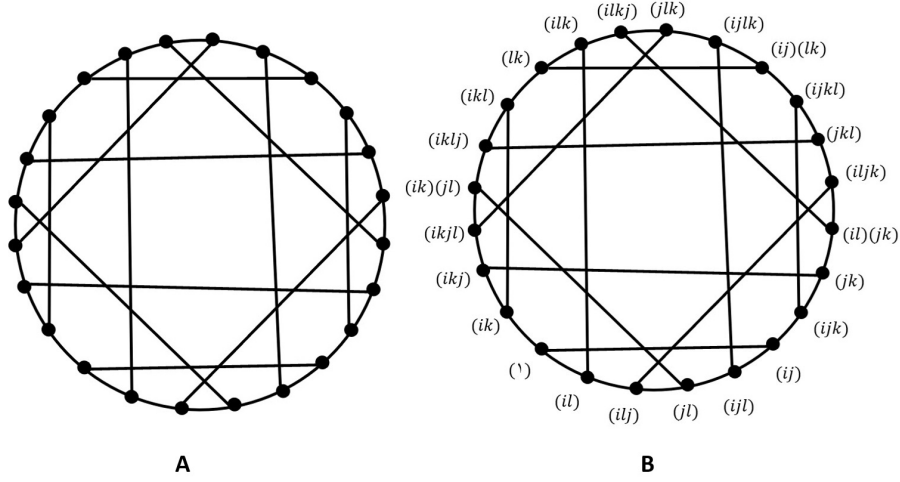


FIGURE 10. A: The Graph  $\Gamma_6$       B: The Graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$

*Proof.* Since  $S = \{(ij), (il), (ik)\}$ , we have

$$\langle S \rangle = S_4.$$

The graph  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  is shown in Figure 10B. Thus, it is isomorphic to  $\Gamma_6$  in Figure 10.  $\square$

In the next theorem, we classify non-isomorphic Cayley graphs of symmetric group  $S_4$  of valency 3, by using Propositions 3.2 to 3.11.

**Theorem 3.12.** *Up to isomorphism, there are exactly 10 Cayley graphs of the symmetric group  $S_4$  of valency 3, and they are given in Table 2.*

Remember that, the graph  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is called a CI-graph of the group  $G$ , if  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(G, S')$  implies that there is a permutation  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$  such that  $S' = S^\sigma$ . So, we have the following corollaries.

TABLE 2. Cayley graphs of  $S_4$  of valency 3.

No.	$S$	$\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$
1	$\{(ij), (il), (jl)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^4 K_{3,3}$
2	$\{(12)(34), (14)(23), (13)(24)\}$ $\{(ij), (lk), (ij)(lk)\}$ $\{(ij)(lk), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^6 K_4$
3	$\{(ij), (il)(kj), (ik)(lj)\}$ $\{(ij), (iljk), (ikjl)\}$ $\{(ij)(lk), (ijlk), (iklj)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2$
4	$\{(ij), (ijl), (ilj)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^4 C_3 \square K_2$
5	$\{(ij), (ij)(lk), (il)(jk)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^3 \Gamma_1$
6	$\{(ij)(lk), (ijl), (ilj)\}$	$\cup_{t=1}^2 \Gamma_2$
7	$\{(ij), (il), (jk)\}$ $\{(ij), (ijlk), (iklj)\}$	$\Gamma_3$
8	$\{(ij), (ilk), (ikl)\}$	$\Gamma_4$
9	$\{(ij), (il), (il)(jk)\}$ $\{(ij), (jl), (ij)(lk)\}$	$\Gamma_5$
10	$\{(ij), (il), (ik)\}$	$\Gamma_6$

**Corollary 3.13.** *The graphs  $\cup_{t=1}^4 K_{3,3}$ ,  $\cup_{t=1}^4 C_3 \square K_2$ ,  $\cup_{t=1}^3 \Gamma_1$ ,  $\cup_{t=1}^2 \Gamma_2$ ,  $\Gamma_4$  and  $\Gamma_6$  are the CI-graphs for the group  $S_4$ .*

**Corollary 3.14.** *The graphs  $\cup_{t=1}^6 K_4$ ,  $\cup_{t=1}^3 C_4 \square K_2$ ,  $\Gamma_3$  and  $\Gamma_5$  are not CI-graphs for the group  $S_4$ .*

**Corollary 3.15.**  *$S_4$  is not a CI-group. Moreover, it does not have the 3-CI-property.*

*Proof.* By Corollary 3.14. □

In the final part of this section, we investigate the relation between the Cayley graph of  $S_{n+1}$  and the Cayley graph of  $S_n$  for a set  $S$ , such that  $S$  is a subset of  $S_n$  and we can consider it as a subset of  $S_{n+1}$ .

**Theorem 3.16.** *Suppose that  $S$  is a subset of the group  $S_n$ , such that  $1_G \notin S$  and  $S = S^{-1}$ . Then  $\text{Cay}(S_{n+1}, S)$  is the disjoint union of  $n + 1$  copies of  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$ .*

*Proof.* By Proposition 2.2, all components of  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$  are isomorphic to  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . Thus, the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$  is isomorphic to the disjoint union of  $n!/k$  copies of  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ , where  $|\langle S \rangle| = k$ .

We consider  $S_n$  as a subgroup of  $S_{n+1}$ , such that for each  $\rho \in S_n$  we have  $(n + 1)^\rho = n + 1$  and so  $\rho \in S_{n+1}$ . As well, suppose that  $S$  is a subset of  $S_{n+1}$ . Since,  $S_n \leq S_{n+1}$  and  $|S_n| = n!$  we have  $[S_{n+1} : S_n] = n + 1$ . Thus,  $[S_{n+1} : \langle S \rangle] = k(n + 1)$ . Again by Proposition 2.2,  $\text{Cay}(S_{n+1}, S)$  is isomorphic

to the disjoint union of  $(n+1)!/k$  copies of  $\text{Cay}(\langle S \rangle, S)$ . So,  $\text{Cay}(S_{n+1}, S)$  is isomorphic to the disjoint union of  $n+1$  copies of  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$ .  $\square$

Now, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.17.** *Up to isomorphism, there are at least 10 Cayley graphs of the symmetric group  $S_n$  of valency 3.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.16, we have

$$\text{Cay}(S_n, S) = \bigcup_{x=1}^{n!/4!} (\text{Cay}(S_4, S)).$$

Therefore, each isomorphic class of  $\text{Cay}(S_4, S)$  creates an isomorphic class of the graph  $\text{Cay}(S_n, S)$ , and we are down.  $\square$

#### 4. GAP Code for Computing Cayley Graphs

In this section, we explore the computation of Cayley graphs for permutation groups, specifically the symmetric group  $S_4$ . Using a programmatic approach, we can generate these graphs in various computational algebra systems. For instance, the following GAP code, (GAP: a system for computational discrete algebra) snippet demonstrates how to construct the Cayley graph of the symmetric group  $S_4$  using specific generators. The GAP programming language provides tools for working with groups and can efficiently compute Cayley graphs [8].

Below is a GAP program that constructs the Cayley graph for the symmetric group  $S_4$  using the GRAPH package [10] and for specified generators:

```
gap

# Load the necessary package
LoadPackage("Graph");

# Define the symmetric group S4
G := SymmetricGroup(4);

# Define the generators
S := [ (3,1), (3,2,4), (3,4,2) ];

# Create the Cayley graph
C := CayleyGraph(G, S);

# Display the Cayley graph
Display(C);
```

This GAP code initializes the symmetric group  $S_4$ , defines the desired generators, constructs the Cayley graph, and finally displays it. By running this code, researchers can visualize the structure of the group and its relationships as represented by the Cayley graph.

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FATEMEH RAEI

ORCID NUMBER: 0009-0008-4504-4804

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS EDUCATION,

FARHANGIAN UNIVERSITY,

P.O. BOX 14665-889, TEHRAN, IRAN

*Email address:* [f.raei@cfu.ac.ir](mailto:f.raei@cfu.ac.ir)