Constructions of strongly regular Cayley graphs using index four Gauss sums

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Abstract We give a construction of strongly regular Cayley graphs on finite fields \( \mathbb{F}_q \) by using union of cyclotomic classes and index 4 Gauss sums. In particular, we obtain two infinite families of strongly regular graphs with new parameters.

Keywords Cyclotomy · Gauss sum · Index 4 Gauss sum · Strongly regular graph

1 Introduction

A strongly regular graph \( \text{srg}(v, k, \lambda, \mu) \) is a simple and undirected graph, neither complete nor edgeless, that has the following properties:

(1) It is a regular graph of order \( v \) and valency \( k \).
(2) For each pair of adjacent vertices \( x, y \), there are \( \lambda \) vertices adjacent to both \( x \) and \( y \).
(3) For each pair of nonadjacent vertices \( x, y \), there are \( \mu \) vertices adjacent to both \( x \) and \( y \).

For example, a pentagon is an \( \text{srg}(5, 2, 0, 1) \), the \( 3 \times 3 \) grid (the Cartesian product of two triangles) is an \( \text{srg}(9, 4, 1, 2) \), and the Petersen graph is an \( \text{srg}(10, 3, 0, 1) \).
The first two examples can be generalized. Let \( q = 4t + 1 \) be a prime power. The Paley graph \( P(q) \) is the graph with the elements of the finite field \( \mathbb{F}_q \) as vertices; two vertices are adjacent if and only if their difference is a nonzero square in \( \mathbb{F}_q \). One can readily check that \( P(q) \) is a srg\((4t + 1, 2t, t - 1, t)\). For a survey on strongly regular graphs, we refer the reader to [4] and [10]. Strongly regular graphs are closely related to two-weight linear codes, projective two-intersection sets in finite geometry, quasismmetric designs, and partial difference sets. We refer the reader to [4, 6, 10, 16] for these connections.

The adjacency matrix of a (simple) graph \( \Gamma \) is a \((0, 1)\)-matrix \( A \) with rows and columns both indexed by the vertices of \( \Gamma \), where \( A_{xy} = 1 \) if and only if \( x, y \) have an edge in \( \Gamma \). Clearly \( A \) is symmetric with zeros on the diagonal. The eigenvalues of \( \Gamma \) are by definition the eigenvalues of its adjacency matrix \( A \). For convenience, we call an eigenvalue of \( \Gamma \) restricted if it has an eigenvector orthogonal to the all-one vector. Below is a well-known characterization of srg by using their eigenvalues; we refer the reader to [4] for its proof.

**Theorem 1.1** For a graph \( \Gamma \) of order \( v \), neither complete nor edgeless, with adjacency matrix \( A \), the following are equivalent:

1. \( \Gamma \) is an srg\((v, k, \lambda, \mu)\) for certain integers \( k, \lambda, \mu \).
2. \( A^2 = (\lambda - \mu)A + (k - \mu)I + \mu J \), where \( I, J \) are the identity matrix and the all-one matrix, respectively.
3. \( A \) has precisely two distinct restricted eigenvalues.

The two distinct restricted eigenvalues of an srg are usually denoted by \( r \) and \( s \), where \( r \) is the positive eigenvalue and \( s \) the negative one. The Paley graphs are probably the simplest examples of the so-called cyclotomic strongly regular graphs, which we define below. Let \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f} \) be the finite field of order \( p^f \), where \( p \) is a prime and \( f \) is a positive integer. Let \( D \) be a subset of \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f} \) such that \(-D = D \) and \( 0 \notin D \). We define the Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D) \) to be the graph with the elements of \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f} \) as vertices; two vertices are adjacent if and only if their difference belongs to \( D \). When \( D \) is a subgroup of the multiplicative group \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f}^* \) of \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f} \) and \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D) \) is strongly regular, then we say that \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D) \) is a cyclotomic strongly regular graph. Specializing to the case where \( D \) is the subgroup of \( \mathbb{F}_{q}^* \) consisting of the nonzero squares, where \( q \) is a prime power congruent to 1 modulo 4, we see that \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D) \) is nothing but the Paley graph \( P(q) \).

Cyclotomic srg have been extensively studied by many authors; see [1, 5, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18]. Some of these authors used the language of cyclic codes in their investigations. We choose to use the language of srg. Let \( D \) be a subgroup of \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f}^* \) of index \( N > 1 \). If \( D \) is the multiplicative group of a subfield of \( \mathbb{F}_{p^f} \), then it is easy to show that \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D) \) is an srg. These cyclotomic srg are usually called subfield examples. Next if there exists a positive integer \( t \) such that \( p^t \equiv -1 \pmod{N} \), then \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D) \) is an srg by an old result of Stickelberger [19]. These examples are usually called semi-primitive cyclotomic srg. The following conjecture of Schmidt and White [18] says that besides the two classes of cyclotomic srg mentioned above, there are only 11 sporadic examples of cyclotomic srg.
Table 1

| N   | p  | f  | $(\mathbb{Z}_N^*) : (p)$ |
|-----|----|----|--------------------------|
| 11  | 3  | 5  | 2                        |
| 19  | 5  | 9  | 2                        |
| 35  | 3  | 12 | 2                        |
| 37  | 7  | 9  | 4                        |
| 43  | 11 | 7  | 6                        |
| 67  | 17 | 33 | 2                        |
| 107 | 3  | 53 | 2                        |
| 133 | 5  | 18 | 6                        |
| 163 | 41 | 81 | 2                        |
| 323 | 3  | 144| 2                        |
| 499 | 5  | 249| 2                        |

Conjecture 1.2 (Conjecture 4.4, [18]) Let $\mathbb{F}_{p^f}$ be the finite field of order $p^f$, $N | (p^f - 1)$, $N > 1$, and let $C_0$ be the subgroup of $\mathbb{F}_{p^f}^*$ of index $N$. Assume that $-C_0 = C_0$. If $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, C_0)$ is an srg, then one of the following holds:

1. (subfield case) $C_0 = \mathbb{F}_{p^e}^*$, where $e | f$,
2. (semi-primitive case) There exists a positive integer $t$ such that $p^t \equiv -1 \pmod{N}$,
3. (exceptional case) $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, C_0)$ is one of the eleven “sporadic” examples appearing in Table 1.

The above conjecture remains open. On the construction side, semi-primitive Gauss sums have been quite useful for constructing strongly regular Cayley graphs. Here by semi-primitive Gauss sums $g(\chi)$ over $\mathbb{F}_{p^f}$, where the order of $\chi$ is $N$, we mean that there exists some positive integer $t$ such that $p^t \equiv -1 \pmod{N}$. In such a situation, it is known that an arbitrary union of cyclotomic classes of order $N$ of $\mathbb{F}_{p^f}$ will give rise to an srg. We refer the reader to [2, 5, 15] and [7] for work in this direction. Quite recently, motivated by the examples of De Lange [14] and Ikuta and Munemasa [11], Feng and Xiang [8] considered the problem of constructing strongly regular graphs $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{p^f}, D)$, where $D$ is a union of at least two cyclotomic classes of order $N$ and it is assumed that a single cyclotomic class of order $N$ does not give rise to an srg. They succeeded in generalizing seven of the index 2 examples of cyclotomic srg in Table 1 into infinite families. The main tools used in [8] are index 2 Gauss sums. We remark that even though the first example in Table 1 is an index 2 example (ord$_{11}(3) = 5$), the construction in [8] could not generalize it into an infinite family since ord$_{11^m}(3) \neq \phi(11^m)/2$ when $m > 1$.

In this paper, we use similar idea to construct strongly regular Cayley graphs. Our goal is to generalize the index 4 example in Table 1. Naturally the main tools that we use are index 4 Gauss sums, which will be introduced Sect. 2. We obtain two infinite families of srg with new parameters. The first family generalizes the index 4 example listed in Table 1, and it has parameters...
where \( m \geq 1 \) is an integer. (Note that the \( \lambda \) and \( \mu \) values of the srg can be computed from \( v, k, r \) and \( s \).) The second family generalizes a (trivial) subfield example of cyclotomic srg, and it has parameters

\[
v = 3^{3.13^m - 1}, \quad k = \frac{v - 1}{13}, \quad r = \frac{3^{3.13^m - 1 + 3}}{13} - 1, \quad \text{and} \quad s = -4 \cdot 3^{3.13^m - 1} - 1,
\]

where \( m \geq 1 \) is an integer.

### 2 Index 4 Gauss sums

Let \( p \) be a prime, \( f \) be a positive integer, and \( q = p^f \). Let \( \mathbb{F}_q \) be the finite field of order \( q \), \( \zeta_p \) be a complex primitive \( p \)th root of unity, and \( \text{Tr}_{q/p} \) be the trace from \( \mathbb{F}_q \) to \( \mathbb{F}_p \). The multiplicative characters of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) are the homomorphisms from the multiplicative group \( \mathbb{F}_q^* \) to the multiplicative group \( \mathbb{C}^* \) of the complex field \( \mathbb{C} \). On the other hand, the additive characters of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) are the homomorphisms from the additive group \( (\mathbb{F}_q, +) \) to \( \mathbb{C}^* \), and they are given by

\[
\psi_a : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*, \quad \psi_a(x) = \zeta_{\text{Tr}_{q/p}(ax)},
\]

where \( a \in \mathbb{F}_q \). We usually write \( \psi_1 \) simply as \( \psi \), which is called the canonical additive character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \).

Now let \( \chi \) be a multiplicative character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). Define the Gauss sum by

\[
g(\chi) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^*} \chi(x)\psi(x).
\]

We first list some basic properties of Gauss sums.

**Proposition 2.1** (Lemma 1.1 [9])

1. Let \( \chi_0 \) be the trivial multiplicative character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). Then \( g(\chi_0) = -1 \). Also \( g(\chi)g(\chi) = q \) for any \( \chi \neq \chi_0 \).
2. Let \( N | (q - 1) \), \( \chi \) be a multiplicative character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) of order \( N \), and \( \sigma_{a,b} \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N, \zeta_p)/\mathbb{Q}) \) be such that \( \sigma_{a,b}(\zeta_N) = \zeta_N^a \) and \( \sigma_{a,b}(\zeta_p) = \zeta_p^b \). Then

\[
\sigma_{a,b}(g(\chi)) = \overline{\chi}(b)g(\chi^a). \quad \text{Also} \quad \sigma_{p,1}(g(\chi)) = g(\chi^p) = g(\chi).
\]
For more properties of Gauss sums, we refer the reader to [3] and [12]. Gauss sums can be viewed as the Fourier coefficients of the Fourier expansion of the additive characters in terms of the multiplicative characters of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). That is,
\[
\psi(a) = \frac{1}{q - 1} \sum_{\chi \in \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^*} g(\bar{\chi}) \chi(a), \quad \text{for all } a \in \mathbb{F}_q^*,
\]
where \( \bar{\chi} = \chi^{-1} \) and \( \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^* \) denotes the character group of \( \mathbb{F}_q^* \).

In this paper, we will need certain index 4 Gauss sums, which we define below.

Let \( p \) be a prime, \( N \geq 2 \) such that \( \gcd(p(p - 1), N) = 1 \). Thus \( p \in \mathbb{Z}_N^* \), the unit group of \( \mathbb{Z}_N \). Furthermore, we assume that \(-1 \not\in \langle p \rangle\) and the order of \( p \) modulo \( N \) is \( f = \frac{\phi(N)}{4} \). It follows that \([\mathbb{Z}_N^* : \langle p \rangle]\) = 4 and the decomposition field \( K \) of \( p \) in the cyclotomic field \( \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N) \) is a quartic abelian imaginary field. Let \( \chi \) be a multiplicative character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) of order \( N \). Then the Gauss sum \( g(\chi) \) is called an index 4 Gauss sum. Note that since we assumed that \( \gcd(N, p - 1) = 1 \), we have \( \chi(b) = 1 \) for any \( b \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \), where \( \chi \in \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^* \) has order \( N \). It follows that \( g(\chi) \in \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_N] \) by part (2) of Proposition 2.1.

Since \( \gcd(p(p - 1), N) = 1 \), \( N \) must be odd. The assumption \([\mathbb{Z}_N^* : \langle p \rangle]\) = 4 implies that \( N \) has at most three distinct prime factors (cf. [9]). In fact, the authors of [9] listed all possibilities of \( N \) satisfying the above assumptions. In this paper, we are only concerned with one of these possibilities, namely, \( N = p_1^m \), where \( m \) is a positive integer, \( p_1 \) is an odd prime and \( p_1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8} \). In this case, the decomposition field \( K \) is the unique imaginary cyclic quartic subfield of \( \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N) \). In fact, \( K \) is a subfield of \( \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p_1}) \). The Galois group \( \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}) \) is canonically isomorphic to the group \( \mathbb{Z}_N^*/\langle p \rangle \). Henceforth, we often identify these two groups. We can choose a primitive element \( g \) modulo \( p_1 \) such that \( g \) is also a primitive element modulo \( N = p_1^m \) (cf. [12, p. 43]). Let \( \sigma : \zeta_N \mapsto \zeta_N^N \). Then \( \sigma \) is a generator of \( \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N)/\mathbb{Q}) \) and its restriction to \( K \) is a generator of \( \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_N^*/\langle p \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*/\langle p \rangle \). By the choice of \( g \) and the index 4 assumption we have \( \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*/\langle p \rangle \subseteq \langle g \rangle \cup \langle g^2 \rangle \cup \langle g^3 \rangle \). We will use the following notation:
\[
\bar{C}_j = g^j(\langle p \rangle) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^* \quad (0 \leq j \leq 3);
\]
\[
\bar{f} = \frac{\phi(p_1)}{4} = \frac{p_1 - 1}{4};
\]
\[
b_j = \frac{1}{p_1} \sum_{z \in \langle 1, p_1 - 1 \rangle \cap \bar{C}_j} z \quad (0 \leq j \leq 3),
\]
where \([1, p_1 - 1]\) denotes the set of integers \( x \), \( 1 \leq x \leq p_1 - 1 \);
\[
b = \min\{b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3\} = b_\lambda \text{ for some } \lambda \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\};
\]
\[
c = \min\{b_{\lambda+1} - b, b_{\lambda+3} - b\}, \text{ where the subscripts are read modulo } 4;
\]
\[
\eta_j = \sum_{a \in \bar{C}_j} \xi_{p_1}^{-a} \zeta_{p_1}^a \quad (0 \leq j \leq 3),
\]
where \( \xi_{p_1} \) is a complex primitive \( p_1 \)th root of unity.

Lemma 2.2 [9] With the above assumptions and notation \( \{\eta_j | 0 \leq j \leq 3\} \) is an integral basis of \( K \), and \( \eta_j = \sigma^j(\eta_0) \), where \( \sigma(\xi_{p_1}) = \xi_{p_1}^g \). The equation \( p_1 = X^2 + Y^2 \) has a unique integer solution \( (A, B) \) such that \( A \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \). Furthermore,
\begin{equation*}
4\eta_0, 4\eta_2 = (-1 + \sqrt{p_1}) \pm i\sqrt{2}[p_1 - A\sqrt{p_1}]^{\frac{1}{2}},
\end{equation*}
\begin{equation*}
4\eta_1, 4\eta_3 = (-1 - \sqrt{p_1}) \pm i\sqrt{2}[p_1 + A\sqrt{p_1}]^{\frac{1}{2}}.
\end{equation*}

Below let \( \chi \) be a multiplicative character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) of order \( N \).

**Theorem 2.3** [9] *Under the above assumptions, we have \( p^{-\frac{f-1}{2}}bg(\chi) \in O_K \) (the integer ring of \( K \)).*

By Lemma 2.2, we now write \( p^{-\frac{f-1}{2}}bg(\chi) \) as
\begin{equation*}
p^{-\frac{f-1}{2}}bg(\chi) = N_0\eta_0 + N_1\eta_1 + N_2\eta_2 + N_3\eta_3, \quad N_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \ \forall i.
\end{equation*}
Without loss of generality we assume that
\begin{align*}
4\eta_0 &= (-1 + \sqrt{p_1}) + i\sqrt{2}[p_1 - A\sqrt{p_1}]^{\frac{1}{2}} = 4\eta_2, \\
4\eta_1 &= (-1 - \sqrt{p_1}) + i\sqrt{2}[p_1 + A\sqrt{p_1}]^{\frac{1}{2}} = 4\eta_3.
\end{align*}

Then
\begin{equation*}
4p^{-\frac{f-1}{2}}bg(\chi)
= -(N_0 + N_1 + N_2 + N_3) + (N_0 - N_1 + N_2 - N_3)\sqrt{p_1}
+ i\sqrt{2}[(N_0 - N_2)(p_1 - A\sqrt{p_1})^{\frac{1}{2}} + (N_1 - N_3)(p_1 + A\sqrt{p_1})^{\frac{1}{2}}]. \quad (2.2)
\end{equation*}
We make the following transformation:
\begin{align*}
M_0 &= N_0 + N_1 + N_2 + N_3, & 4N_0 &= M_0 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3, \\
M_1 &= N_0 + N_1 - N_2 - N_3, & 4N_1 &= M_0 + M_1 - M_2 - M_3, \\
M_2 &= N_0 - N_1 + N_2 - N_3, & 4N_2 &= M_0 - M_1 + M_2 - M_3, \\
M_3 &= N_0 - N_1 - N_2 + N_3, & 4N_3 &= M_0 - M_1 - M_2 + M_3.
\end{align*}
Then
\begin{align*}
4p^{-\frac{f-1}{2}}bg(\chi)
&= -M_0 + M_2\sqrt{p_1}
+ i\sqrt{2}\left[\frac{M_1 + M_3}{2}(p_1 - A\sqrt{p_1})^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{M_1 - M_3}{2}(p_1 + A\sqrt{p_1})^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]. \quad (2.3)
\end{align*}

**Theorem 2.4** [9] *The integers \( M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3 \) defined above satisfy the following conditions:*
\begin{align*}
16p^{f-2b} &= M_0^2 + M_1(M_1^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2), \\
2M_0M_2 + 2AM_1M_3 &= B(M_1^2 - M_3^2), \\
M_0 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3 &\equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\
M_1 &\equiv M_2 \equiv M_3 \pmod{2}, \\
M_0 &\equiv 4p^{-b} \pmod{p_1}.
\end{align*}
3 Cyclotomic classes and strongly regular Cayley graphs

Let \( q = p^f \) be a prime power, and \( \gamma \) be a fixed primitive element of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). Let \( N > 1 \) be a divisor of \( q - 1 \). Then the \( N \)th cyclotomic classes \( C_0, C_1, \ldots, C_{N-1} \) are defined by

\[
C_i = \left\{ \gamma^{i+jN} \mid 0 \leq j \leq \frac{q-1}{N} - 1 \right\},
\]

where \( 0 \leq i \leq N - 1 \).

Note that \( C_0 \) consists of all the \( N \)th powers in \( \mathbb{F}_q^* \). Therefore \( C_0 \) does not depend on the choice of \( \gamma \). The other classes \( C_i, 1 \leq i \leq N - 1 \), do depend on the choice of \( \gamma \). As usual, let \( \psi \) be the canonical additive character of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). The \( N \)th cyclotomic periods (also called Gauss periods) are defined by

\[
\tau_a = \sum_{x \in C_a} \psi(x),
\]

where \( 0 \leq a \leq N - 1 \).

Now using (2.1), we have

\[
\tau_a = \sum_{x \in C_0} \psi(\gamma^a x) = \sum_{x \in C_0} \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{\chi \in \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^*} g(\bar{\chi}) \chi(\gamma^a x) = \frac{1}{(q-1)} \sum_{\chi \in \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^*} g(\bar{\chi}) \chi(\gamma^a) \sum_{x \in C_0} \chi(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\chi \in C_0^\perp} g(\bar{\chi}) \chi(\gamma^a),
\]

where \( C_0^\perp \) is the subgroup of \( \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^* \) consisting of all characters \( \chi \) which are trivial on \( C_0 \), i.e. \( C_0^\perp \) is the unique subgroup of \( \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^* \) of order \( N \). The above computations give the relationship between Gauss periods and Gauss sums.

Assume that \( N = p_1^m \), where \( p_1 \) is an odd prime and \( p_1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8} \), and \( p_1 > 5 \). Let \( p \neq p_1 \) be a prime such that \([\mathbb{Z}_N : \langle p \rangle] = 4\). It follows that \( \gcd(p-1, p_1) = 1 \). (This can be seen as follows. If \( p \equiv 1 \pmod{p_1} \), then by using Lemma 3 of [12, p. 42] repeatedly, we obtain \( p_1^{m-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p_1^m} \), contradicting the assumptions that \( \text{ord}_{p_1}(p) = \frac{p_1^{m-1}(p_1-1)}{4} \) and \( p_1 > 5 \).) Therefore we have \( \gcd(p(p-1), N) = 1 \). Define \( f = \text{ord}_N(p) = \frac{1}{4} \phi(N) \) and \( q = p^f \). Let \( C_0, C_1, \ldots, C_{N-1} \) be the \( N \)th cyclotomic classes of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). Define

\[
D = \bigcup_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} C_i. \tag{3.1}
\]

Using \( D \) as connection set, we construct the Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \).
Theorem 3.1  The Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \) is an undirected, simple, regular graph of valency \(|D|\), and it has at most five distinct restricted eigenvalues.

Proof Note that \(-1 \in C_0\) since either \(2N|(q-1)\) or \(q\) is even. Hence \(-C_i = C_i\) for all \(0 \leq i \leq N-1\), so \(D = -D\). Also \(0 \notin D\). We conclude that the Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \) is undirected and without loops. The Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \) is clearly regular of valency \(|D|\). The restricted eigenvalues of \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \), as explained in [4, p. 122], are given by

\[
\psi(\gamma^aD) = \sum_{x \in D} \psi(\gamma^ax), \quad 0 \leq a \leq N-1.
\]

Now we turn to the computations of \( \psi(\gamma^aD) \). We have

\[
\psi(\gamma^aD) = \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \psi(\gamma^aC_i) = \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \tau_{i+a} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\chi \in C_0^\perp} g(\bar{\chi}) \chi(\gamma^{a+i}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\chi \in C_0^\perp} \chi(\gamma^a) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{a+i}).
\]

Consider the inner sum \( \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{a+i}) \), where \( \chi \in C_0^\perp \). Note that \( C_0^\perp \) is the unique subgroup of \( \hat{\mathbb{F}}_q^\times \) of order \( N = p_1^m \). If \( \chi \in C_0^\perp \) and \( \text{ord} (\chi) = 1 \) (that is, \( \chi = \chi_0 \)), then \( g(\bar{\chi}) = -1 \) and \( \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{a+i}) = p_1^{m-1} \). If \( \chi \in C_0^\perp \) and \( \text{ord} (\chi) = p_1^j \) \((1 \leq j \leq m-1)\), then \( \chi(\gamma) \neq 1 \), \( \chi(\gamma) p_1^{m-1} = 1 \), and \( \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{a+i}) = \chi(\gamma^a) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^i) = \chi(\gamma^a) \frac{\chi(\gamma)p_1^{m-1}}{\chi(\gamma)-1} = 0 \). Hence,

\[
\psi(\gamma^aD) = \frac{1}{N} \left( -p_1^{m-1} + \sum_{\chi \in C_0^\perp, \text{ord}(\chi) = p_1^m} g(\bar{\chi}) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{a+i}) \right).
\]

Next, we consider the characters \( \chi \in C_0^\perp \) such that \( \text{ord}(\chi) = N = p_1^m \), i.e., the generators of \( C_0^\perp \). We define a multiplicative character \( \theta \) of \( \mathbb{F}_q \) by setting \( \theta(\gamma) = \zeta_N \). It is clear that \( \theta \) is a generator of \( C_0^\perp \). Thus all generators of \( C_0^\perp \) are given by \( \theta^t \), where \( t \in \mathbb{Z}_N^* \). It follows that
\[
\psi(\gamma^a D) = \frac{1}{N} \left( -p_1^{m-1} + \sum_{\chi \in \mathbb{C}_0^+} g(\bar{\chi}) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \chi(\gamma^{ai}) \right) \\
= \frac{1}{N} \left( -p_1^{m-1} + \sum_{t \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1^m}^*} g(\bar{\theta}^t) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \theta^i(\gamma^{ai}) \right).
\]

For convenience, we set
\[
S_a := \sum_{t \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1^m}^*} g(\bar{\theta}^t) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{m-1}-1} \theta^i(\gamma^{ai}),
\]
where \(0 \leq a \leq N - 1\).

For each \(t \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1^m}^*\), we write \(t = t_1 + p_1 t_2\), where \(t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1^m}, t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1^{m-1}}\). For each \(a, 0 \leq a \leq N - 1\), there is a unique \(i_a \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, p_1^{m-1} - 1\}\), such that \(p_1^{m-1} \mid (a + i_a)\). Write \(a + i_a = p_1^{m-1} j_a\) for some integer \(j_a\). (When \(N = p_1\), we have \(i_a = 0\) and \(j_a = a\) for all \(0 \leq a \leq N - 1\).)

By Theorem 2.3, we have \(p^{\frac{f - \ell}{2} - b} g(\bar{\theta}) \in O_K\). We can write \(p^{\frac{f - \ell}{2} - b} g(\bar{\theta}) = N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3, N_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \forall i\). Making the following transformation:

\[
\begin{align*}
M_0 &= N_0 + N_1 + N_2 + N_3, \\
M_1 &= N_0 + N_1 - N_2 - N_3, \\
M_2 &= N_0 - N_1 + N_2 - N_3, \\
M_3 &= N_0 - N_1 - N_2 + N_3.
\end{align*}
\]

By Theorem 2.4, the integers \(M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3\) satisfy the following conditions:

\[
\begin{align*}
16p^{f - 2b} &= M_0^2 + p_1 (M_1^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2), \\
2M_0 M_2 + 2AM_1 M_3 &= B(M_1^2 - M_3^2), \\
M_0 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3 &\equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\
M_1 &\equiv M_2 \equiv M_3 \pmod{2}, \\
M_0 &\equiv 4p^{-b} \pmod{p_1}.
\end{align*}
\]

Here the notation is the same as in Sect. 2.

Next we want to determine how many distinct values \(\psi(\gamma^a D), 0 \leq a \leq N - 1\), will take. Since \(\psi(\gamma^a D) = \frac{1}{N} (-p_1^{m-1} + S_a)\), it suffices to determine the value distribution of \(\{S_a | 0 \leq a \leq N - 1\}\).

Since \(\eta_j, 0 \leq j \leq 3\), are in \(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p_1})\), we have \(\sigma_t(\eta_j) = \sigma_t(\zeta_{p_1}) \cdot \eta_j = \eta_j\).

Hence \(\sigma_t(g(\bar{\theta})) = \sigma_t(g(\bar{\theta}^t))\). Therefore \(g(\bar{\theta}^t) = g(\bar{\theta}^{t_1}) = p^{\frac{f - \ell}{2} - b}(N_0 \eta_0^{\sigma_{t_1}} + N_1 \eta_1^{\sigma_{t_1}} + N_2 \eta_2^{\sigma_{t_1}} + N_3 \eta_3^{\sigma_{t_1}})\). We now continue the computations of \(S_a\). We have
\[
S_a = \sum_{t \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*} g(\tilde{\theta}^t) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{-1} - 1} \theta^i (\gamma^{a+i}) \\
= \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*} \sum_{t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^{-m-1}} g(\tilde{\theta}^t) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{-1} - 1} \theta^{t_1 + p_1 t_2} (\gamma^{a+i}) \\
= \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*} \sum_{t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^{-m-1}} g(\tilde{\theta}^t) \sum_{i=0}^{p_1^{-1} - 1} \theta^{t_1} (\gamma^{a+i}) \sum_{t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^{-m-1}} (\theta^{p_1} (\gamma^{a+i}))^{t_2}.
\]

If \( \theta^{p_1 (a+i)} (\gamma) \neq 1 \), that is, \( p_1^{-1} \nmid (a + i) \), then
\[
\sum_{t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^{-m-1}} (\theta^{p_1} (\gamma^{a+i}))^{t_2} = \frac{1 - \theta^{p_1 (a+i)} (\gamma)}{1 - \theta^{p_1 (a+i)} (\gamma)} = 0.
\]

Recall that for each \( a, 0 \leq a \leq N - 1 \), there is a unique \( i_a \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, p_1^{-1} - 1\} \), such that \( p_1^{-1} \mid (a + i_a) \), and we write \( a + i_a = p_1^{-1} j_a \). Thus we have
\[
S_a = p_1^{-1} \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*} g(\tilde{\theta}^t) \theta^{t_1} (\gamma^{p_1^{-1} j_a}).
\]

Note that by the definition of \( \theta \), we have \( \theta^{t_1} (\gamma^{p_1^{-1} j_a}) = \zeta_{p_1}^{p_1^{-1} j_a t_1} = \zeta_{p_1}^{j_a t_1} \). It will be convenient to introduce \( \psi_{ja} \), which is an additive character of the prime field \( \mathbb{Z}_{p_1} \) such that \( \psi_{ja} (t_1) = \zeta_{p_1}^{j_a t_1} \). In this way, we have \( \theta^{t_1} (\gamma^{p_1^{-1} j_a}) = \psi_{ja} (t_1) \). We now have
\[
S_a = p_1^{-1} \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}^*} g(\tilde{\theta}^t) \psi_{ja} (t_1) \\
= p_1^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} f_{\tilde{\theta}^t} + b \end{pmatrix} \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}} (N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3) \psi_{ja} (t_1) \\
= p_1^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} f_{\tilde{\theta}^t} + b \end{pmatrix} \sum_{i=0}^{3} \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}} (N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3) \psi_{ja} (t_1) \\
= p_1^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} f_{\tilde{\theta}^t} + b \end{pmatrix} \left[ (N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3) \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}} \psi_{ja} (t_1) + (N_0 \eta_1 + N_1 \eta_2 + N_2 \eta_3 + N_3 \eta_0) \sum_{t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1}} \psi_{ja} (t_1) \right]
\]
\[+ (N_0 \eta_2 + N_1 \eta_3 + N_2 \eta_0 + N_3 \eta_1) \sum_{t_1 \in g^2(p)} \psi_j a(t_1)\]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_3 + N_1 \eta_0 + N_2 \eta_1 + N_3 \eta_2) \sum_{t_1 \in g^2(p)} \psi_j a(t_1)\]  \]

When \( a \) runs through \( \mathbb{Z}_N \), \( j_a \) runs through \( \mathbb{Z}_{p^1} \) correspondingly. Note that \( \mathbb{Z}_{p^1} = \langle p \rangle \cup g \langle p \rangle \cup g^2 \langle p \rangle \cup g^3 \langle p \rangle \). We therefore have five cases to consider according to \( j_a = 0, \) and \( j_a \in g^i \langle p \rangle, i = 0, 1, 2, 3.\)

Case I. \( j_a = 0. \) In this case, we have \( \sum_{t_1 \in g^i \langle p \rangle} \psi_j a(t_1) = \frac{p_1^{-1}}{4}, \) for \( 0 \leq i \leq 3. \)

\[S_a = p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} \left[ (N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3) \frac{p_1-1}{4} \right. \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_1 + N_1 \eta_2 + N_2 \eta_3 + N_3 \eta_0) \frac{p_1-1}{4} \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_2 + N_1 \eta_3 + N_2 \eta_0 + N_3 \eta_1) \frac{p_1-1}{4} \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_3 + N_1 \eta_0 + N_2 \eta_1 + N_3 \eta_2) \frac{p_1-1}{4} \right] \]

\[= -p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} (N_0 + N_1 + N_2 + N_3) \frac{p_1-1}{4}. \]

This value of \( S_a \) will be denoted by \( p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} T_1, \) where \( T_1 = (N_0 + N_1 + N_2 + N_3) \frac{1-p_1}{4}. \)

Case II. \( j_a \in \langle p \rangle. \) In this case \( \sum_{t_1 \in g^i \langle p \rangle} \psi_j a(t_1) = \eta_i, 0 \leq i \leq 3. \) We have

\[S_a = p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} \left[ (N_0 \eta_0 + N_1 \eta_1 + N_2 \eta_2 + N_3 \eta_3) \eta_0 \right. \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_1 + N_1 \eta_2 + N_2 \eta_3 + N_3 \eta_0) \eta_1 \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_2 + N_1 \eta_3 + N_2 \eta_0 + N_3 \eta_1) \eta_2 \]

\[+ (N_0 \eta_3 + N_1 \eta_0 + N_2 \eta_1 + N_3 \eta_2) \eta_3 \]

\[= p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} \left[ N_0 (\eta_0^2 + \eta_1^2 + \eta_2^2 + \eta_3^2) \right. \]

\[+ N_1 (\eta_0 \eta_1 + \eta_1 \eta_2 + \eta_2 \eta_3 + \eta_3 \eta_0) \]

\[+ N_2 (\eta_0 \eta_2 + \eta_1 \eta_3 + \eta_2 \eta_0 + \eta_3 \eta_1) \]

\[+ N_3 (\eta_0 \eta_3 + \eta_1 \eta_0 + \eta_2 \eta_1 + \eta_3 \eta_2) \].

This value of \( S_a \) will be denoted by \( p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} T_2. \)

Case III. \( j_a \in g \langle p \rangle. \) In this case \( \sum_{t_1 \in g^i \langle p \rangle} \psi_j a(t_1) = \eta_i+1, 0 \leq i \leq 3. \) Similarly we have

\[S_a = p_1^{m-1} p^{\frac{r-f}{2} + b} \left[ N_0 (\eta_0 \eta_1 + \eta_1 \eta_2 + \eta_2 \eta_3 + \eta_3 \eta_0) \right. \]

\[+ N_1 (\eta_0^2 + \eta_1^2 + \eta_2^2 + \eta_3^2) \]

\[+ N_2 (\eta_0 \eta_1 + \eta_1 \eta_2 + \eta_2 \eta_3 + \eta_3 \eta_0) \]

\[+ N_3 (\eta_0 \eta_2 + \eta_1 \eta_3 + \eta_2 \eta_0 + \eta_3 \eta_1) \].
This value of $S_a$ will be denoted by $p_{1}^{m-1}p^{i-1+b}T_{3}$.

**Case IV.** $j_a \in g^{2}(p)$. In this case $\sum_{t_{1} \in g\langle p \rangle} \psi_{j_a}(t_{1}) = \eta_{i+2}$, $0 \leq i \leq 3$. Similarly we have

$$S_a = p_{1}^{m-1}p^{i-1+b}\left[ N_{0}(\eta_{0}\eta_{2} + \eta_{1}\eta_{3} + \eta_{2}\eta_{0} + \eta_{3}\eta_{1})
+ N_{1}(\eta_{0}\eta_{1} + \eta_{1}\eta_{2} + \eta_{2}\eta_{3} + \eta_{3}\eta_{0})
+ N_{2}(\eta_{0}^{2} + \eta_{1}^{2} + \eta_{2}^{2} + \eta_{3}^{2})
+ N_{3}(\eta_{0}\eta_{3} + \eta_{1}\eta_{0} + \eta_{2}\eta_{1} + \eta_{3}\eta_{2}) \right].$$

This value of $S_a$ will be denoted by $p_{1}^{m-1}p^{i-1+b}T_{4}$.

**Case V.** $j_a \in g^{3}(p)$. In this case $\sum_{t_{1} \in g\langle p \rangle} \psi_{j_a}(t_{1}) = \eta_{i+3}$, $0 \leq i \leq 3$. Similarly we have

$$S_a = p_{1}^{m-1}p^{i-1+b}\left[ N_{0}(\eta_{0}\eta_{3} + \eta_{1}\eta_{0} + \eta_{2}\eta_{1} + \eta_{3}\eta_{2})
+ N_{1}(\eta_{0}\eta_{2} + \eta_{1}\eta_{3} + \eta_{2}\eta_{0} + \eta_{3}\eta_{1})
+ N_{2}(\eta_{0}\eta_{1} + \eta_{1}\eta_{2} + \eta_{2}\eta_{3} + \eta_{3}\eta_{0})
+ N_{3}(\eta_{0}^{2} + \eta_{1}^{2} + \eta_{2}^{2} + \eta_{3}^{2}) \right].$$

This value of $S_a$ will be denoted by $p_{1}^{m-1}p^{i-1+b}T_{5}$.

Therefore we have shown that $S_a$, $0 \leq a \leq N - 1$, take at most five distinct values. It follows that the Cayley graph $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$ has at most five distinct restricted eigenvalues. The proof of the theorem is complete. $\Box$

We are now ready to consider the question that under what conditions, the Cayley graph $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$, with $D$ defined in (3.1), is strongly regular. By Theorem 1.1, the question is the same as asking under what conditions, the Cayley graph $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$ will have exactly two distinct restricted eigenvalues. Using the transformation between $\{N_{0}, N_{1}, N_{2}, N_{3}\}$ and $\{M_{0}, M_{1}, M_{2}, M_{3}\}$, and the following equations satisfied by $\eta_{i}$:

\[
\begin{align*}
\eta_{0}^{2} + \eta_{1}^{2} + \eta_{2}^{2} + \eta_{3}^{2} &= \frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}, \\
\eta_{0}\eta_{1} + \eta_{1}\eta_{2} + \eta_{2}\eta_{3} + \eta_{3}\eta_{0} &= \frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}, \\
\eta_{0}\eta_{2} + \eta_{1}\eta_{3} + \eta_{2}\eta_{0} + \eta_{3}\eta_{1} &= \frac{1 + 3p_{1}}{4},
\end{align*}
\]

we have $\{T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}, T_{4}, T_{5}\} = \{\frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}M_{0}, \frac{1 - p_{2}}{4}M_{0} + p_{1}N_{0}, \frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}M_{0} + p_{1}N_{1}, \frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}M_{0} + p_{1}N_{2}, \frac{1 - p_{1}}{4}M_{0} + p_{1}N_{3}\}$. From the proof of Theorem 3.1, we see that the value distribution of the restricted eigenvalues of $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$ is completely determined by the value distribution of $\{T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}, T_{4}, T_{5}\}$.

**Theorem 3.2** If $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$ is strongly regular, then either $p_{1} - 1$ or $p_{1} - 9$ is a perfect square. In the case where $p_{1} - 1$ is a square, $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q}, D)$ is strongly regular if and only if the integer solutions $(M_{0}, M_{1}, M_{2}, M_{3})$ of (3.2) satisfy $(M_{0} : M_{1} : M_{2} : \ldots)$...
In the case where $p_1 - 9$ is a square, $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D)$ is strongly regular if and only if the integer solutions $(M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)$ of (3.2) satisfy $(M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) \in \{(3 : -1 : -1 : -1), (3 : -1 : 1 : 1), (3 : 1 : 1 : -1), (3 : 1 : 1 : -1)\}$.

**Proof** Up to a permutation of indices, we may assume that

\[
\begin{align*}
T_1 &= \frac{1 - p_1}{4} M_0, \\
T_2 &= \frac{1 - p_1}{4} M_0 + p_1 N_0, \\
T_3 &= \frac{1 - p_1}{4} M_0 + p_1 N_1, \\
T_4 &= \frac{1 - p_1}{4} M_0 + p_1 N_2, \\
T_5 &= \frac{1 - p_1}{4} M_0 + p_1 N_3.
\end{align*}
\]

We first note that the set $\{T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4, T_5\}$ has at least two distinct elements. Otherwise, we will have $N_0 = N_1 = N_2 = N_3 = 0$; it follows that the Gauss sum $g(\theta) = 0$, which is impossible.

If the set $\{T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4, T_5\}$ has exactly two distinct elements, there are fifteen possible cases in total. We discuss these cases one by one.

**Case 1.** $T_2 = T_3 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_1 \iff N_0 = N_1 = N_2 = N_3 \neq 0 \iff M_1 = M_2 = M_3 = 0, M_0 \neq 0$. Under the assumptions of this case, we have $M_0^2 = 16 p_1^3 - 2p_1$. But $\tilde{f} = \frac{p_1 - 1}{4}$ is odd since $p_1 = 5$ (mod 8). It follows that $M_0 \not\in \mathbb{Z}$, a contradiction. We conclude that Case 1 cannot occur.

**Case 2.** $T_1 = T_3 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_2 \iff N_1 = N_2 = N_3 = 0, N_0 \neq 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (1 : 1 : 1 : 1)$. In this case we have $A = -1$ and $p_1 - 1 = B^2$.

**Case 3.** $T_1 = T_2 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_3 \iff N_0 = N_2 = N_3 = 0, N_1 \neq 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (1 : -1 : 1 : -1)$. In this case we have $A = -1$ and $p_1 - 1 = B^2$.

**Case 4.** $T_1 = T_2 = T_3 = T_5 \neq T_4 \iff N_0 = N_1 = N_3 = 0, N_2 \neq 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (1 : 1 : 1 : -1)$. In this case we have $A = -1$ and $p_1 - 1 = B^2$.

**Case 5.** $T_1 = T_2 = T_3 = T_4 \neq T_5 \iff N_0 = N_1 = N_2 = 0, N_3 \neq 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (1 : -1 : -1 : 1)$. In this case we have $A = -1$ and $p_1 - 1 = B^2$.

**Case 6.** $T_1 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_2 = T_3 \iff N_2 = N_3 = 0, N_0 = N_1 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = M_1 \neq 0, M_2 = M_3 = 0$. In this case we have $B = 0$, which is impossible.

**Case 7.** $T_1 = T_3 = T_5 \neq T_2 = T_4 \iff N_1 = N_3 = 0, N_0 = N_2 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = M_2, M_1 = M_3 = 0$. In this case, we have $M_0 = M_1 = M_2 = M_3 = 0$, which is impossible.

**Case 8.** $T_1 = T_3 = T_4 \neq T_2 = T_5 \iff N_1 = N_2 = 0, N_0 = N_3 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = -M_2, M_1 = M_3 = 0$. In this case we have $M_0 = M_1 = M_2 = M_3 = 0$, which is impossible.

**Case 9.** $T_1 = T_2 = T_5 \neq T_3 = T_4 \iff N_0 = N_2 = 0, N_1 = N_3 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = -M_2, M_1 = M_3 = 0$. In this case we have $M_0 = M_1 = M_2 = M_3 = 0$, which is impossible.

**Case 10.** $T_1 = T_2 = T_4 \neq T_3 = T_5 \iff N_0 = N_2 = 0, N_1 = N_3 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = -M_2, M_1 = M_3 = 0$. In this case we have $M_0 = M_1 = M_2 = M_3 = 0$, which is impossible.
Case 11. Let $T_1 = T_2 = T_3 = T_4 = T_5 \iff N_0 = N_1 = 0, N_2 = N_3 \neq 0 \iff M_0 = -M_1, M_2 = M_3 = 0$. In this case we have $B = 0$, which is impossible.

Case 12. Let $T_3 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_1 = T_2 \iff N_0 = N_2 = N_3 \neq 0, N_0 = 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (3 : -1 : -1 : 1)$. In this case we have $A = 3$ and $p_1 - 9 = B^2$.

Case 13. Let $T_2 = T_4 = T_5 \neq T_1 = T_3 \iff N_0 = N_2 = N_3 = 0, N_1 = 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (3 : -1 : 1 : 1)$. In this case we have $A = 3$ and $p_1 - 9 = B^2$.

Case 14. Let $T_2 = T_3 = T_5 \neq T_1 = T_4 \iff N_0 = N_2 = N_3 = 0, N_2 = 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (3 : 1 : 1 : -1)$. In this case we have $A = 3$ and $p_1 - 9 = B^2$.

Case 15. Let $T_2 = T_3 = T_4 \neq T_1 = T_5 \iff N_0 = N_1 = N_2 = 0, N_3 = 0 \iff (M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) = (3 : 1 : 1 : -1)$. In this case we have $A = 3$ and $p_1 - 9 = B^2$.

If Cay($\mathbb{F}_q$, $D$) is strongly regular, then it has exactly two distinct restricted eigenvalues, thus \{Case 11, Case 12, Case 13, Case 14, Case 15\} has exactly two distinct elements. From the analysis above, either $p_1 - 1$ or $p_1 - 9$ is a square; suppose $(M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)$ is a solution of (3.2), we see that $(M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)$ must be one of the possibilities listed in the statement of the theorem. That is, when $A = -1$, $p_1 - 1$ is a perfect square, $(M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) \in \{(1 : 1 : 1 : 1), (1 : 1 : -1 : -1), (1 : -1 : 1 : -1), (1 : -1 : -1 : 1)\}$; when $A = 3$, $p_1 - 9$ is perfect square and $(M_0 : M_1 : M_2 : M_3) \in \{(3 : -1 : -1 : -1), (3 : -1 : 1 : 1), (3 : 1 : -1 : 1), (3 : 1 : 1 : -1)\}$.

Conversely, if the integer solutions $(M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)$ of (3.2) satisfy the conditions stated in the theorem, then it is easy to see from the above analysis that \{Case 11, Case 12, Case 13, Case 14, Case 15\} has exactly two distinct elements. It follows that Cay($\mathbb{F}_q$, $D$) is strongly regular.

The proof of the theorem is now complete.

\[\square\]

4 New infinite families of strongly regular Cayley graphs

We used a computer to search for prime pairs $(p, p_1)$, $2 \leq p < 10,000$, $3 \leq p_1 < 10,000$, satisfying the conditions specified in Sect. 2 and in the statement of Theorem 3.2. We found two such pairs which are given below. Note that in general for a prime pair $(p, p_1)$ satisfying the conditions $p_1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $\gcd(p(p - 1), p_1) = 1$ and $\text{ord}_{p_1^m}(p) = \phi(p_1^m)/4$ for all $m \geq 1$, there are possibly many solutions $(M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4)$ to (3.2); only those solutions $(M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4)$ which can be used to represent the Gauss sums $g(\phi)$ should be considered. We refer the reader to Lemma 3.2 of [9] for a method to decide when a solution $(M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4)$ to (3.2) can be used to represent the Gauss sum $g(\phi)$.

Example 4.1 Let $p_1 = 37$, $p = 7$, $N = p_1^m$ where $m \geq 1$ is any integer. Note that in this case we have $p_1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ and $p_1 > 5$. It is straightforward to check that $\text{ord}_{37}(7) = 9 = \phi(37^m)/4$. By induction on $m$, one can show that $\text{ord}_{37^m}(7) = \phi(37^m)/4$. Let $f = \text{ord}_{37^m}(7) = \phi(37^m)/4$ and $\mathbb{F}_q$ be the finite field of order $q = 7^f$. Let $\gamma$ be a fixed primitive element of $\mathbb{F}_q$. Let $C_0 = \langle \gamma^N \rangle, C_1 = \gamma C_0, \ldots, C_{N-1} = \gamma^{N-1} C_0$ be the $N$th cyclotomic classes of $\mathbb{F}_q$ and let

$$D = \bigcup_{i=0}^{37^m-1} C_i.$$
We claim that the Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \) is strongly regular. To prove this claim, it suffices to apply Theorem 3.2 to the current situation.

**Lemma 4.1** (Example 1, [9]) When \( p_1 = 13 \) or \( 37 \), we have

\[
b = \min\{b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3\} = \frac{\tilde{f} - 1}{2},
\]

where \( \tilde{f} = \frac{\phi(p_1)}{4} \).

Now, for \( p_1 = 37 \), we have \( \tilde{f} = \frac{\phi(37)}{4} = 9 \), \( b = 4 \), and \( p_1 - 1 = 36 \) is a perfect square. The integer solutions \((A, B)\) to \( p_1 = A^2 + B^2 \) with \( A \equiv 3 \) (mod 4) are \((-1, \pm 6)\). That is, \( A = -1 \) and \( B = \pm 6 \). Also \( 4p^{-b} = 4 \cdot 7^{-4} \equiv 4 \cdot 9 \equiv -1 \) (mod 37).

We need to determine the \((M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)\) satisfying (3.2). In our case, (3.2) becomes

\[
\begin{align*}
112 &= M_0^2 + 37(M_1^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2), \\
2M_0M_2 - 2M_1M_3 &= B(M_1^2 - M_3^2), \\
M_0 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3 &\equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\
M_1 &\equiv M_2 \equiv M_3 \pmod{2}, \\
M_0 &\equiv -1 \pmod{37}.
\end{align*}
\]

From the first equation we obtain \( M_0^2 = 1 \) and \( M_1^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2 = 3 \). Therefore, \( M_0 = -1 \) and \( M_1, M_2, M_3 \in \{\pm 1\} \). Together with the conditions, we get a total of four integer solutions \((-1, 1, 1, -1), (1, -1, 1, 1), (-1, -1, 1, 1)\). Since each of these four solutions satisfies the conditions of Theorem 3.2, we conclude that \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \) is a strongly regular graph, with parameters

\[
v = 7^{9 \cdot 3^m - 1}, \quad k = \frac{v - 1}{37}, \quad r = \frac{9 \cdot 7^{9 \cdot 3^m - 1} - 1}{37}, \quad \text{and}
\]

\[
s = -4 \cdot \frac{7^{9 \cdot 3^m - 1} - 1}{37}.
\]

**Example 4.2** Let \( p_1 = 13 \), \( p = 3 \), \( N = p_1^m \), where \( m \geq 1 \) is an integer. By induction on \( m \), we can also show that \( \text{ord}_{13^m}(3) = \frac{\phi(13^m)}{4} \). Also, we let \( f = \frac{\phi(13^m)}{4}, q = 3^f \), and \( C_0, C_1, \ldots, C_{N-1} \) be the \( N \)th cyclotomic classes of \( \mathbb{F}_q \). Using

\[
D = \bigcup_{i=0}^{13^m - 1} C_i
\]

as connection set, we construct the Cayley graph \( \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, D) \). Now \( p_1 - 9 = 4 \) is a perfect square, \( \tilde{f} = \frac{\phi(13)}{4} = 3 \) and \( b = \frac{\tilde{f} - 1}{2} = 1 \) by Lemma 4.1.
The integer solutions \((A, B)\) to \(p_1 = A^2 + B^2\) with \(A \equiv 3 \pmod{4}\) are \((3, \pm 2)\). That is, \(A = 3\) and \(B = \pm 2\). Also \(4p^{-b} = 4 \cdot 3^{-1} \equiv 4 \cdot (-4) \equiv -3 \pmod{13}\). We need to determine the \((M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3)\) satisfying (3.2). In our case, (3.2) becomes

\[
\begin{align*}
48 &= M_1^2 + 13(M_2^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2), \\
2M_0M_2 + 6M_1M_3 &= B(M_1^2 - M_3^2), \\
M_0 + M_1 + M_2 + M_3 &\equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\
M_1 &\equiv M_2 \equiv M_3 \pmod{2}, \\
M_0 &\equiv -3 \pmod{13}.
\end{align*}
\]

From the first equation we obtain \(M_0^2 = 9\) and \(M_1^2 + M_2^2 + M_3^2 = 3\). Therefore, \(M_0 = -3\) and \(M_1, M_2, M_3 \in \{\pm 1\}\). Similarly, we also get four solutions \((-3, -1, -1, 1), (-3, 1, -1, -1), (-3, -1, 1, -1), (-3, 1, 1, 1)\). Since each of them satisfies the conditions of Theorem 3.2, we conclude that \(\text{Cay}(F_q, D)\) is also a strongly regular graph.

If \(m = 1\), then \(N = 13, f = 3, q = p^f = 27\) and \(D = C_0 = F_3^e\), where \(F_3\) is the prime subfield of \(F_{33}\). The strongly regular graph in this case belongs to the so-called subfield case, and is rather boring. But for \(m \geq 2\), the strongly regular graphs \(\text{Cay}(F_q, D)\) are new and their parameters are

\[
v = 3^{3 \cdot 13^{m-1}}, \quad k = \frac{v - 1}{13}, \quad r = \frac{3 \cdot 13^{m-1} + 1}{2} - 1, \quad \text{and} \quad s = -4 \cdot \frac{3 \cdot 13^{m-1} - 1}{13}.
\]

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