THE ORDER SUPERGRAPH OF THE POWER GRAPH OF A
FINITE GROUP

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Abstract. The power graph $P(G)$ is a graph with group elements as vertex set and
two elements are adjacent if one is a power of the other. The order supergraph $S(G)$
of the power graph $P(G)$ is a graph with vertex set $G$ in which two elements $x, y \in G$
are joined if $o(x)|o(y)$ or $o(y)|o(x)$. The purpose of this paper is to study certain
properties of this new graph together with the relationship between $P(G)$ and $S(G)$.

Keywords: Power graph, order supergraph, proper order supergraph.

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1. Introduction

All groups in this paper are finite and we will consider only simple undirected graphs.
Suppose $\Gamma$ and $\Delta$ are graphs in which $V(\Gamma) \subseteq V(\Delta)$ and $E(\Gamma) \subseteq E(\Delta)$. Then $\Gamma$ is
called a subgraph of $\Delta$ and $\Delta$ a supergraph for $\Gamma$. Suppose $x, y$ are vertices of $\Gamma$. The
length of a minimal path connecting $x$ and $y$ is called topological distance between $x$ and $y$. The maximum topological distances between vertices of $\Gamma$ is called its diameter. The topological distance between $x$ and $y$ and diameter of $\Gamma$ are denoted by $d_{\Gamma}(x, y)$ and $diam(\Gamma)$, respectively. The number of edges incident to a vertex $x$ is called the
degree of $x$ denoted by $deg(x)$.

There are several kinds of simple undirected graphs associated with finite groups
which are currently of interest in the field. For a finite group $G$; there are two graphs
associated to the set of elements of $G$, the power graph $P(G)$ and its order supergraph
which is denoted by $S(G)$. This graph is also recorded in literature as main supergraph $[9]$. Two elements $x, y \in G$ are adjacent in the power graph if and only if one is a power
of the other. They are joined to each other in $S(G)$ if and only if $o(x)|o(y)$ or $o(y)|o(x)$. The aim of this paper is studying the following two questions:

(1) Which graph can occur as $P(G)$ or $S(G)$?

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What is the structure of $G$ if $\mathcal{P}(G)$ or $\mathcal{S}(G)$ are given?

Suppose $\Gamma$ is a simple graph with vertex set $V$ and edge set $E$ and $R$ is a partition of $V$. Define the quotient graph $\hat{\Gamma}$ with vertex set $R$. Two vertices $A$ and $B$ in $R$ are adjacent if and only if there exists a vertex in $A$ and another one in $B$ such that they are adjacent in $\Gamma$. Bubboloni et al. [2] introduced the notion of order graph of a finite group $G$, $\mathcal{O}(G)$, as a simple graph with the following vertex and edge sets:

$$V(\mathcal{O}(G)) = \{ o(x) \mid x \in G \},$$

$$E(\mathcal{O}(G)) = \{ rs \mid \{ r, s \} \subseteq V(\mathcal{O}(G)) \ \& \ \{ r \mid s \ \or \ s \mid r \} \}.$$

It is easy to see that $\mathcal{O}(G)$ is isomorphic to a quotient graph of $\mathcal{S}(G)$ in which the set $V(\mathcal{S}(G))$ is partitioned into elements with the same order.

The directed power graph of groups and semigroups was introduced by Kelarev and Quinn in their seminal paper [12]. They defined the directed power graph of a group $G$ to be a directed graph with vertex set $G$ and all arcs of the form $uv$ where $v$ is a power of $u$. One of the main results of the mentioned paper gives a very technical description of the structure of the power graphs of all finite abelian groups. The same authors [13] studied the power graph of the multiplicative subsemigroup of the ring of $n \times n$ matrices over a skew-field and a subsemigroup of the monoid of row and column-monomial $n \times n$ matrices over a group with 0. We refer the interested readers to consult papers [10, 11] for more information about the power graphs of semigroups.

The undirected power graph of finite groups was introduced by Chakrabarty et al. [6]. Chakrabarty et al. [6] proved that the undirected power graph of a finite group $G$ is complete if and only if $G$ is a cyclic $p$–group, for prime number $p$. Cameron and Ghosh [4] proved that two abelian groups with isomorphic power graphs must be isomorphic and conjectured that two finite groups with isomorphic power graphs have the same number of elements of each order. This conjecture responded affirmatively by Cameron [5]. Mirzargar et al. [15], investigated some combinatorial properties of the power graph of finite groups and in [17], some properties of the power graphs of finite simple groups are considered into account.

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 [19], p. 396, the $A$–join of $\mathcal{G}$ is the graph $\Delta$ with the following
vertex and edge sets:

\[ V(\Delta) = \{(x, y) \mid x \in V(A) \& y \in V(\Gamma_x)\}, \]

\[ E(\Delta) = \{(x, y)(x', y') \mid xx' \in E(A) \text{ or else } x = x' \& yy' \in E(\Gamma_x)\}.\]

It is easy to see that this graph can be constructed from \( A \) by replacing each vertex \( a \in V(A) \) by the graph \( \Gamma_a \) and inserting either all or none of the possible edges between vertices of \( \Gamma_a \) and \( \Gamma_b \) depending on whether or not \( a \) and \( b \) are joined by an edge in \( A \). If \( A \) is an \( p \)-vertex labeled graph then the \( A \)-join of \( \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \ldots, \Delta_p \) is denoted by \( A[\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \ldots, \Delta_p] \).

Suppose \( G \) is a finite group. The \emph{exponent} of \( G \), \( \text{Exp}(G) \), is defined to be the least common multiple of its element orders. This group is called \emph{full exponent} if there is an element \( x \in G \) such that \( o(x) = \text{Exp}(G) \). The set of all prime factors of \( |G| \), the set of all element orders of \( G \) and the number of elements of order \( i \) in \( G \) are denoted by \( \pi(G) \), \( \pi_e(G) \) and \( \omega_i(G) \), respectively. The \( \varphi(n) \) denotes the Euler totient function. The notation \emph{complete graph} of order \( n \) is denoted by \( K_n \) and \( K_{m,n} \) denotes the \emph{complete bipartite graph} with parts of sizes \( m \) and \( n \), respectively. Our other notations are standard and can be taken from \cite{18,22}. We encourage the interested readers to consult papers \cite{14,16} for more information on this topic.

2. Main Results

The \emph{proper power graph} \( P^*(G) \) \cite{2,3} and its \emph{proper order supergraph} \( S^*(G) \) are defined as graphs constructed from \( P(G) \) and \( S(G) \) by removing identity element of \( G \), respectively. We start this section by comparing the power graph and its order supergraph. It is easy to see that every non-identity element is adjacent with identity in \( S(G) \) which proves that \( S(G) \) is connected and its diameter is at most two. On the other hand, if \( G \) has even order then identity has odd degree and so \( S(G) \) is not Eulerian.

Suppose \( \Gamma \) and \( \Delta \) are two graphs, \( u \) is a vertex of \( \Gamma \) and \( v \) is a vertex in \( \Delta \). A splice of \( \Gamma \) and \( \Delta \) at the vertices \( u \) and \( v \) is obtained by identifying the vertices \( u \) and \( v \) in the union of \( \Gamma \) and \( \Delta \) which is denoted by \( S(\Gamma, \Delta, u, v) \) \cite{8}.

**Example 2.1.** Consider the dihedral group \( D_{2n} = \langle r, s \mid r^n = s^2 = 1, srs = r^{-1} \rangle \). If \( n \) is a power of 2 then obviously \( S(D_{2n}) \) is a complete graph. If \( n \) is odd then \( sr^i, \ 1 \leq i \leq n, \) are all involutions of \( D_{2n} \) which forms an \( n \)-vertex complete subgraph of
Thus, \( S(D_{2n}) \) is a splice of \( S(Z_n) \) and complete graph \( K_n \) at identity element of dihedral group. Finally, if \( n \) is even but not a power of 2 then \( S(D_{2n}) \) can be constructed from \( S(Z_n) \) by adding an \( n \)-clique \( T \) such that each vertex of \( T \) is adjacent with all elements of \( \langle r \rangle \) of even order.

It is obvious that \( G \cong H \) implies that \( S(G) \cong S(H) \). If \( G \) and \( H \) are two non-isomorphic \( p \)-group with the same order then \( S(G) \) and \( S(H) \) are complete and so they are isomorphic. So, the converse is not generally correct.

**Theorem 2.2.** \( \mathcal{P}(G) = S(G) \) if and only if \( G \) is cyclic.

**Proof.** Let \( G \) be a cyclic group of order \( n \) generated by \( x \). Since \( \mathcal{P}(G) \) and \( S(G) \) have the same vertex set \( G \), it is enough to prove that \( E(S(G)) \subseteq E(\mathcal{P}(G)) \). Suppose \( a, b \) are adjacent vertices in \( S(G) \). Then \( o(a)|o(b) \) or \( o(b)|o(a) \). Set \( a = x^m \) and \( b = x^k \). Without loss of generality, we can assume that \( o(a)|o(b) \). This implies that \( \frac{n}{\gcd(n, m)} \) and so \( (n, k)|(n, m) \). Hence \( (n, k)|m \) which shows that \( x^m \in \langle x^k \rangle \). Therefore, \( a \) and \( b \) are adjacent in \( E(\mathcal{P}(G)) \), as desired.

Conversely, we assume that \( E(S(G)) = E(\mathcal{P}(G)) \). Then for each element \( x, y \in G \) with \( o(x) = o(y) \) we have \( \langle x \rangle = \langle y \rangle \). Choose \( x \in G \). Hence, there is a unique cyclic subgroup of order \( o(x) \) and so each cyclic subgroup is normal. This implies that each subgroup is normal and so \( G \) is abelian or Hamiltonian [20]. If \( G \) is Hamiltonian, then \( G \) can be written as the direct product of the quaternion group \( Q_8 \), an elementary abelian \( 2 \)-group and a finite abelian group \( A \) of odd order. Since \( Q_8 \) has more than one cyclic subgroup, \( G \) is abelian. But, every abelian non-cyclic group has at least two subgroups of a prime order \( p \), where \( p||G| \). Therefore, \( G \) is cyclic. \( \square \)

**Theorem 2.3.** Let \( G \) be a finite group. \( S(G) \) is complete if and only if \( G \) is a \( p \)-group.

**Proof.** If \( G \) is a finite \( p \)-group then clearly \( S(G) \) is complete. Conversely, we assume that \( p \) and \( q \) are two distinct prime divisors of \( G \). Then there are elements \( x \) and \( y \) of orders \( p \) and \( q \), respectively. Therefore, \( x \) and \( y \) are not adjacent in \( S(G) \), proving the result. \( \square \)

A group \( G \) is said to be periodic if and only if every element of \( G \) has finite order. It is possible to define \( S(G) \), when \( G \) is periodic and since the identity element is again adjacent to all elements of \( G \), \( S(G) \) will be connected.

Suppose \( G \) is a group and \( \Gamma \) is a simple graph. The group \( G \) is called an \( EPPO \)-group, if all elements of \( G \) have prime power order. It is an \( EPO \)-group, if all elements have
prime order. An independent set for $\Gamma$ is a set of vertices such that no two of which are adjacent. The cardinality of an independent set with maximum size is called the independent number of $\Gamma$, denoted by $\alpha(\Gamma)$.

**Theorem 2.4.** $|\pi(G)| \leq \alpha(S(G)) \leq |\pi_e(G)| - 1$. The right-hand equality is attained if and only if $G$ is EPO-group.

**Proof.** Suppose $|G| = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_r^{a_r}$, where $r \geq 1$ and $p_i, 1 \leq i \leq r$, are prime numbers. Thus $|\pi(G)| = r$. Choose elements $g_i$ of order $p_i$, $1 \leq i \leq r$ and set $A = \{g_1, \ldots, g_r\}$. Then $A$ is an independent subset of $G$ and so $|\pi(G)| \leq \alpha(S(G))$. We now assume that $\pi_e(G) = \{a_1, \ldots, a_k\}$. Define a graph $\Delta$ such that $V(\Delta) = \pi_e(G)$ and two vertices $x$ and $y$ are adjacent if and only if $x|y$ or $y|x$. Define the induced subgraph $R_i$ of $S(G)$ with the set of all elements of order $a_i$ as vertex set. Then $R_i$ is a complete graph of order $\omega_{a_i}(G)$. Then $S(G) = \Delta[R_1, \ldots, R_k] \cong \Delta[K_{\omega_{a_1}(G)}, \ldots, K_{\omega_{a_k}(G)}]$. If the order of an element in $K_{\omega_{a_i}(G)}$ divides the order of an element in $K_{\omega_{a_j}(G)}$ then all elements of $K_{\omega_{a_i}(G)}$ will be adjacent to all elements of $K_{\omega_{a_j}(G)}$. As a consequence $\alpha(S(G)) \leq |\pi_e(G)| - 1$.

If $G$ is an EPO-group then all elements of order $p$, $p$ is prime, will be a clique. So, $\alpha(S(G)) = |\pi_e(G)| - 1$. Conversely, we assume that $\alpha(S(G)) = |\pi_e(G)| - 1$. If $G$ has a non-identity element of a non-prime order $e$ then there exists an element $b \in \langle a \rangle$ of prime order. So, each element of order $o(a)$ will be adjacent to each element of order $o(b)$ which contradicts by our assumption. Therefore, all non-identity elements of $G$ have prime order, as desired. \[\square\]

It can be easily seen that if $G$ is an $EPPO-$group then $|\pi(G)| = \alpha(S(G))$. On the other hand, $2 = |\pi(Z_6)| = \alpha(S(Z_6))$, but $Z_6$ is not an $EPPO-$group. So, the following question remains open:

**Question 2.5.** What is the structure of groups with $|\pi(G)| = \alpha(S(G))$?

For a given group $G$, the number of edges in the order supergraph $S(G)$ is denoted by $e(S(G))$. In the following theorem an exact expression for $e(S(G)) = |E(S(G))|$ is calculated.

**Theorem 2.6.** $e(S(G)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \left(2 \sum_{d|o(x)} \omega_d(G) - \omega_{o(x)}(G) - 1\right)$. 
Proof. Define the directed graph $\overrightarrow{S}(G)$ with vertex set $G$ and arc set $E(\overrightarrow{S}(G)) = \{(x, g) \mid o(g)|o(x)\}$. Suppose $x \in G$. Then

$$Outdeg(x) = |\{g \in G, o(g)|o(x)\}| = \sum_{d|o(x)} \omega_d(G) - 1.$$  

It is clear that the whole number of arcs is equal to the sum of $Outdeg(x)$ overall vertices of $\overrightarrow{S}(G)$.

On the other hand, $\sum_{x \in V(\overrightarrow{S}(G))} Outdeg(x) = 2e(\overrightarrow{S}(G))$. To compute the number of edges in $S(G)$, it is enough to count once the edges of $\overrightarrow{S}(G)$ with two different directions. But we have an undirected edge connecting $g$ and $x$, when $o(g)|o(x)$ and $o(x)|o(g)$. In such a case, we will have $o(x) = o(g)$. Therefore, the number of edges with two different directions is $\omega_{o(x)}(G) - 1$ and so

$$e(S(G)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in G} \left(2 \sum_{d|o(x)} \omega_d(G) - \omega_{o(x)}(G) - 1 \right),$$

proving the result. \[\square\]

In the following corollary, we apply the previous theorem to present a new proof for [6, Corollary 4.3].

**Corollary 2.7.** $2e(\mathcal{P}(Z_n)) = \sum_{d|n} [2d - \varphi(d) - 1] \varphi(d)$.

**Proof.** It is easy to check the following formulas:

$$\sum_{x \in Z_n} \sum_{d|o(x)} \omega_d(Z_n) = \sum_{d|n} d \varphi(n),$$

$$\sum_{x \in Z_n} \left[\omega_{o(x)}(Z_n) - 1\right] = \sum_{d|n} \varphi^2(d) - \sum_{d|n} \varphi(d).$$

Therefore, by Theorem 2.6 and the fact that $\mathcal{P}(Z_n) = \mathcal{S}(Z_n)$, $2e(\mathcal{P}(Z_n)) = 2e(\mathcal{S}(Z_n)) = \sum_{d|n} [2d - \varphi(d) - 1] \varphi(d)$, as desired. \[\square\]

**Theorem 2.8.** Let $G$ be a finite group of order $p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$ and

$$V_i = \{g \in G \mid g \neq 1, |g| \mid p_i^{n_i}\}.$$  

$G$ is an EPPO–group if and only if $S(G) = K_1 + (\bigcup_{i=1}^k K_{|V_i|})$. 


Proof. Suppose $G$ is an $EPPO$–group then by the structure of the order supergraph of $G$, each $V_i$ is a clique in $S(G)$ and there is no edge connecting $V_i$ and $V_j$, $i \neq j$. Hence $S(G) = K_1 + (\bigcup_{i=1}^k K_{|V_i|})$.

Conversely, we assume that $S(G) = K_1 + (\bigcup_{i=1}^k K_{|V_i|})$, $e \neq g \in G$ and $p_i p_j || G$. We also assume that $g_i$ and $g_j$ are two elements in $G$ such that $o(g_i) = p_i$ and $o(g_j) = p_j$. Obviously, $g_i \in V_i$ and $g_j \in V_j$ and so $g_i \in K_{|V_i|}$ and $g_j \in K_{|V_j|}$. Since $|g_i|||g|$ and $|g_j|||g|$, $g$ is adjacent to $g_i$ and $g_j$, which is impossible. Therefore, $G$ is an $EPPO$–group, as desired. □

Corollary 2.9. Suppose $G$ is an $EPPO$–group which is not a $p$–group. Then the number of components in $S^*(G)$ is equal to $|\pi(G)|$.

Following Williams [23], we assume that $G$ is a finite group and construct its prime graph as follows: the vertices are the primes dividing the order of the group, two vertices $p$ and $q$ are joined by an edge if and only if $G$ contains an element of order $pq$.

Corollary 2.10. If the prime graph of a group $G$ is totally disconnected then $S^*(G)$ is disconnected.

Proof. It is clear that $G$ is an $EPPO$–group if and only if its prime graph is totally disconnected. We now apply the Corollary [24] to deduce the result. □

The vertex connectivity of a graph $\Gamma$ is the minimum number of vertices, $\kappa(\Gamma)$, whose deletion from $\Gamma$ disconnects it.

Theorem 2.11. The vertex connectivity of $S(G)$ can be computed as follows:

- $\kappa(S(Z_n)) = n - 1$, where $n = p^m$, $p$ is prime and $m$ is a non-negative integer.
- Suppose $n$ is not prime power. Then $\kappa(S(Z_n)) \geq \varphi(n) + 1$. The equality is satisfied if and only if $n = pq$, $p$ and $q$ are distinct prime numbers.

Proof. If $n = p^m$ then the graph $S(G)$ is an $n$–vertex complete graph and so $\kappa(S(Z_n)) = n - 1$. To prove the second part, we have to note that if an $n$–vertex graph $\Gamma$ has exactly $s$ elements of degree $n - 1$ then $\kappa(\Gamma) \geq s$. In fact, we have to delete all such elements to find a disconnected graph. Since $n$ is not prime power and the cyclic group $Z_n$ has exactly $\varphi(n)$ generators, it has at least $\varphi(n) + 1$ elements of degree $n - 1$. Therefore, $\kappa(S(Z_n)) \geq \varphi(n) + 1$. If the equality is satisfied and $n$ is divisible by at least three different primes then by deleting the identity and all elements of order $n$ the resulting graph $H$ will be connected. To prove, we first assume that $n$ is not a
square free integer with exactly three prime factors. Choose two elements $g$ and $h$ in $H$ such that $o(g) = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \geq 3$, and $o(h) = q_1^{\beta_1} q_2^{\beta_2} \cdots q_t^{\beta_t}$, where $p_i$'s and $q_j$'s are prime numbers; $\alpha_i$'s and $\beta_j$'s are positive integers. If $u$ is an element of order $p_1 q_1$ then $(o(g), o(u)) = p_1$ and $(o(h), o(u)) = q_1$, there are paths connecting $u$ and $g$ as well as $u$ and $h$. This implies that there exists a path connecting $g$ and $h$ and so $\kappa(S(Z_n)) > \varphi(n) + 1$. So, it is enough to check the case that $n = pq$. Since $Z_n$ has elements of orders $pq$, $pr$ and $qr$, all elements of the graph obtained from $S(Z_n)$ by deleting the identity and all elements of order $pqr$ will be again connected and so $\kappa(S(Z_n)) > \varphi(n) + 1$. Thus by our assumption, $n$ has exactly two prime factors, say $n = p^k q^l$, where $p, q$ are distinct primes and $k, l$ are positive integers. If $k \geq 2$ or $l \geq 2$ then by choosing an element of order $pq$ and applying a similar argument as above, we can see again the resulting graph will be connected. Therefore, $n = pq$, where $p$ and $q$ are distinct prime numbers. Conversely, if $n = pq$ then clearly $\kappa(S(Z_n)) = \varphi(n) + 1$, which completes the proof. \hfill \Box

The Kuratowski’s theorem states that a finite graph is planar if and only if it does not contain a subgraph that is a subdivision of the complete graph $K_5$ or of the complete bipartite graph $K_{3,3}$. Here, a subdivision of a graph $\Gamma$ is a graph resulting from the subdivision of edges in $\Gamma$. In what follows, we apply this theorem to give a classification of the planar order supergraph of a finite group.

**Theorem 2.12.** The order supergraph of a finite group $G$ is planar if and only if $G \cong 1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_2 \times Z_2$ or $S_3$.

**Proof.** Suppose the order supergraph of $G$ is planar, $n = \text{Max}\{o(x) \mid x \in G\}$ and $x \in G$ is an element of order $n$. If $5|n$ or $n$ is a prime number $\geq 5$ then $S(G)$ has a subgraph isomorphic to $K_5$. On the other hand, $\langle x \rangle$ has exactly $\varphi(n)$ generators and so $S(G)$ has a subgraph isomorphic to $K_{\varphi(n)+1}$. Apply Kuratowski’s theorem, we deduce that $n = 2^\alpha 3^\beta$. We claim that $\alpha \leq 2$ and $\beta \leq 1$. Otherwise, $S(G)$ has an induced subgraph isomorphic to $K_5$, a contradiction. Thus, $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12\}$. If $G$ has an element of order 6 or 12 then we will have a again a subgraph isomorphic to $K_5$ and so $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Since elements of the same order in $G$ constitute a clique in $S(G)$, $\omega_i(G) < 4$, when $i \in \{2, 3, 4\}$. Again since all elements of order 2 are adjacent to all elements of order 4, $\omega_2(G) + \omega_4(G) < 4$. Since $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $\omega_i(G) < 4$, $2 \leq i \leq 4$, by counting the number of elements of each order we have $|G| \leq$
1 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 10 and a simple calculation by small group library of GAP [21] proves that $G$ is isomorphic to $1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_2 \times Z_2$ or $S_3$. The converse is clear. \hfill \Box

By previous Theorem, the graph $S(Z_n)$ is planar if and only if $n < 5$. Suppose $\Gamma$ is a finite graph. The clique number of $\Gamma$, $\omega(\Gamma)$, is the size of a maximal clique in $\Gamma$ and the chromatic number of $\Gamma$, $\chi(\Gamma)$, is the smallest number of colors needed to color the vertices of $\Gamma$ so that no two adjacent vertices share the same color. It is clear that $\chi(\Gamma) \geq \omega(\Gamma)$.

**Corollary 2.13.** If the order supergraph of a finite group $G$ is planar then $\chi(S(G)) = \omega(S(G))$.

**Theorem 2.14.** The proper order supergraph of a finite group $G$ is planar if and only if $G \cong 1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_2 \times Z_2, Z_5, Z_6$ or $S_3$.

**Proof.** Suppose $S^*(G)$ is planar, $n = \text{Max}\{o(g) \mid g \in G\}$ and $x \in G$ has order $n$. Since $\langle x \rangle$ has exactly $\varphi(n)$ elements of order $n$ and these elements constitute a clique in $S^*(G)$, $\varphi(n) < 5$. On the other hand, if $n$ is a prime power and $n \geq 7$ then $S^*(G)$ has a clique isomorphic to $K_5$ which is impossible. Thus $\pi(G) \subseteq \{2, 3, 5\}$ and $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12\}$. If $G$ has an element $x$ of order 10 or 12 then the set $A$ containing all generators of $\langle x \rangle$ and $x^2$ will be a clique of order 5 which leads us to another contradiction. This shows that $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$. Since elements of the same order is a clique in the planar graph $S^*(G)$, $\omega_i(G) \leq 4$, for $i \leq 6$. Finally, the elements of orders 2, 4, the elements of orders 2, 6 and the elements of orders 3, 6 constitute three cliques in $S^*(G)$ and so $\omega_2(G) + \omega_4(G) \leq 4$, $\omega_2(G) + \omega_6(G) \leq 4$ and $\omega_3(G) + \omega_6(G) \leq 4$. Since $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ and $\omega_i(G) \leq 4$, $2 \leq i \leq 6$, by counting the number of elements of each order $|G| \leq 1 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 21$ and a simple calculation by small group library of GAP proves that $G \cong 1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_2 \times Z_2, Z_5, Z_6$ or $S_3$. The converse is obvious. \hfill \Box

Suppose $G$ is a finite group and $S(G)$ is the set of all elements $x \in G$ such that $x$ is adjacent to all elements of $G \setminus \{x\}$ in $S(G)$. In the following theorem, the groups $G$ with $|S(G)| > 1$ is characterized.

**Theorem 2.15.** $|S(G)| > 1$ if and only if $G$ is a non-trivial full exponent finite group.

**Proof.** Suppose $|S(G)| > 1$ and $e \neq g \in S(G)$. If $G$ is a $p$–group then $G$ is full exponent, as desired. We assume that $G$ does not have prime power order and $p$ is a
prime factor of $|G|$. Then obviously $p | o(g)$ and so $o(g)$ is divisible by all prime factors of $|G|$. Choose an element $x \in G$ of order $p^r$, where $p$ is a prime number and $r$ is a non-negative integer. Since $\deg(g) = |G| - 1$, $g$ and $x$ are adjacent. So, $o(x) | o(g)$ or $o(g) | o(x)$. By our assumption, $G$ does not have prime power order and hence $o(x) | o(g)$.

This shows that $o(g) = \text{Exp}(G)$ and therefore $G$ is full exponent.

Conversely, we assume that $G$ is full exponent and $a$ is an element of $G$ such that $o(a) = \text{Exp}(G)$. Thus $a$ is adjacent to all elements of $G \setminus \{a\}$. This proves that $|S(G)| > 1$, proving the result. □

**Corollary 2.16.** If $G$ is isomorphic a nilpotent group, a dihedral group of order $2n$ with even $n$, $H \times \mathbb{Z}_n$ such that $H$ is arbitrary finite group and $n = \text{Exp}(H)$ or $H^n$ with $n = |\pi(H)|$ then $|S(G)| > 1$.

**Theorem 2.17.** The order supergraph of a finite group is bipartite if and only if $G \cong 1, \mathbb{Z}_2$.

**Proof.** If $|G|$ has an odd prime factor $p$ and $x \in G$ has order $p$, then $\langle x \rangle$ is a subgraph isomorphic to $K_p$ which is impossible. Thus $G$ is a 2–group and by Theorem 2.3, $G$ is complete. This shows that $n \leq 2$, as desired. □

**Corollary 2.18.** The order supergraph of a finite group is a tree if and only if $G \cong 1, \mathbb{Z}_2$.

**Theorem 2.19.** Let $G$ be a non-trivial finite group. Then $S^*(G)$ is bipartite if and only if $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ or $\mathbb{Z}_3$.

**Proof.** Suppose $S^*(G)$ is bipartite and $G$ has an element $x$ of order $\geq 4$. It is well-know that if $n \geq 4$ then $\varphi(n) \geq 2$. Hence the cyclic group $\langle x \rangle$ has at least two generators $x, x^t$, where $t > 1$. Choose an element $x^j$ different from $x$ and $x^t$ and so $j \neq 1, t$. Since $o(x^j) | o(x) = o(x^t)$, $x, x^j, x^t, x$ is a cycle of length 3, contradicts by bipartivity of $S^*(G)$. Thus $\pi_e(G) \subseteq \{1, 2, 3\}$. On the other hand, since all element of a given order constitute a clique in $S^*(G)$, $\omega_i(G) \leq 2, i = 2, 3$. This implies that $|G| \leq 5$. Therefore, $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ or $\mathbb{Z}_3$. □

**Corollary 2.20.** The graph $S^*(G)$ is tree if and only if $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ or $\mathbb{Z}_3$.

Suppose $\Gamma$ is a connected graph with exactly $n$ vertices and $m$ edges. If $c = m - n + 1$ then $\Gamma$ is called $c$–cyclic. It is easy to see that $c = 0$ if and only if $\Gamma$ is a tree. In the
case that $c = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $5$, we call $\Gamma$ to be unicyclic, bicyclic, tricyclic, tetracyclic and pentacyclic, respectively.

**Lemma 2.21.** The order supergraph $S(G)$ has a pendant vertex if and only if $|G| \leq 2$.

**Proof.** Suppose $|G| > 1$ and $x$ is a non-identity element such that $deg_{S(G)}(x) = 1$. If $o(x) > 2$ then there exists $y \in \langle x \rangle$ such that $xy, xe \in E(S(G))$ which is impossible. Hence $G$ is elementary abelian and in such a case all involutions are adjacent. This shows that $G \cong Z_2$, proving the lemma. □

**Theorem 2.22.** Let $G$ be a finite group. The following hold:

1. The order supergraph $S(G)$ is unicyclic if and only if $G \cong Z_3$.
2. The order supergraph $S(G)$ cannot be bicyclic and pentacyclic.
3. The order supergraph $S(G)$ is tricyclic if and only if $G \cong Z_4$ or $Z_2 \times Z_2$.
4. The order supergraph $S(G)$ is tetracyclic if and only if $G \cong D_6$.

**Proof.** Suppose $|G| = n$. Our main proof will have some separate cases as follows:

1. Assume that $S(G)$ is unicyclic. Thus $m = n$. Since $deg(e) = n - 1$ the edges in $S(G)$ are those adjacent to $e$ and only a further edge. Thus $S(G)$ is a triangle or it contains some pendant vertex. In that last case, by Lemma 2.21 we have $G \cong Z_2$ and the graph is a tree, a contradiction. Thus $S(G)$ is necessarily a triangle. This gives $|G| = 3$ and thus $G \cong Z_3$. The converse is clear.

2. Since $S(G)$ is bicyclic, $S^*(G)$ has exactly two edges. By Lemma 2.21 if these edges are incident then $|G| = 4$ and in another case we have $|G| = 5$. In both cases, the resulting order supergraph will not be bicyclic, a contradiction. Assume next that $S(G)$ is pentacyclic. Then $G \not\cong 1, Z_2$ and thus, by Lemma 2.21 $S(G)$ has no pendant vertex. The graph $S^*(G)$ contains five edges. Those edges can be incident or not. If they are not incident two by two then $S(G)$ is a friendship graph on 11 vertices. On the other hand, $S^*(G)$ must contain at least four vertices because if there are only three vertices there are at most three edges. It follows that $5 \leq |G| \leq 11$. A case by case investigation of all groups with orders $5 \leq |G| \leq 11$ show that there is no group $G$ with pentacyclic order supergraph.

3. Since $S(G)$ is tricyclic, $S^*(G)$ has exactly three edges. A case by case investigation shows that we have five possible graph structure for $S(G)$ depending on that those edges can be incident or not. On the other hand, a similar argument
as case (2) shows that \( \mathcal{S}(G) \) must contain at least four and at most seven vertices, i.e. \( 4 \leq |G| \leq 7 \). By considering all groups of these orders, one can easily prove that \( |G| = 4 \), as desired.

(4) Since \( \mathcal{S}(G) \) is tetracyclic, \( \mathcal{S}^*(G) \) has exactly four edges. A similar argument like other cases shows that \( 5 \leq |G| \leq 9 \) and a case by case investigation lead us to the result.

This completes the proof. \( \square \)

**Theorem 2.23.** Let \( G \) be a finite group and \( e = xy \in E(\mathcal{S}^*(G)) \). \( e \) is a cut edge if and only if \( \{x, y\} \) is a component of \( \mathcal{S}(G) \).

**Proof.** Suppose \( e = xy \) is a cut edge for \( \mathcal{S}^*(G) \). Without loss of generality, we assume that \( o(y) | o(x) \). Suppose \( o(x) = 2 \). Then \( o(y) = 2 \) and obviously \( G \) does not have another element of even order. This shows that \( \{x, y\} \) is a component of \( \mathcal{S}^*(G) \). If \( o(x) = 3 \) then \( o(y) = 3 \) and the same argument shows that \( \{x, y\} \) is a component of \( \mathcal{S}^*(G) \). So, we can assume \( o(x) \geq 4 \). In this case, since \( \varphi(o(x)) \geq 2 \), the cyclic subgroup \( \langle x \rangle \) has at least two generators and once more element \( z \) such that \( o(z) | o(x) \).

This implies that \( e \) is an edge of a cycle which is impossible. \( \square \)

The graph \( \Gamma \) is called perfect, if \( \chi(\Gamma) = \omega(\Gamma) \), where \( \chi(\Gamma) \) and \( \omega(\Gamma) \) denote the chromatic and clique numbers of \( G \), respectively.

**Theorem 2.24.** (Chudnovsky et al. [7]) The graph \( \Gamma \) is perfect if and only if \( \Gamma \) and \( \bar{\Gamma} \) don’t have an induced odd cycle of length at least five.

**Theorem 2.25.** The order supergraph of a finite group is perfect.

**Proof.** Suppose \( \mathcal{S}(G) \) has an induced odd cycle \( C \) of length at least five and \( \bar{C} \) is its associated directed cycle in the directed order supergraph of \( G \). Choose a directed path \( x \to y \to z \) in \( \bar{C} \). Then \( o(y) | o(x) \) and \( o(z) | o(y) \) which implies that \( xz \in E(\mathcal{S}(G)) \).

Therefore, \( \mathcal{S}(G) \) has an odd cycle of length 3 contradicts by Theorem 2.24. We now assume that \( \bar{C} \) is an induced odd cycle of length at least five in \( \mathcal{S}(G) \). If \( l(\bar{C}) = 5 \) then \( C \) is an induced cycle of length 5, contradicts by the first part of proof.

So, we can assume that \( l(\bar{C}) \geq 7 \). Then \( C \) contains a triangle. On the other hand, for each \( x \in V(\bar{C}) \), \( \text{Indeg}(x) = 0 \) or \( \text{Outdeg}(x) = 0 \) which is not correct for a triangle. This leads us to another contradiction. Hence by Theorem 2.24 the order supergraph \( \mathcal{S}(G) \) is perfect. \( \square \).
In what follows, we apply results of [2, 3] to compute the number of connected components of $S^*(A_n)$ and $S^*(S_n)$, where $A_n$ and $S_n$ denote as usual the alternating and symmetric groups on $n$ symbols. In our next results, $P$ stands for the set of all prime numbers and $aP + b = \{ap + b \mid p \in P\}$.

**Lemma 2.26.** If $n \in \{p, p + 1\}$, $p \in P$, then elements of order $p$ is a component of $S^*(S_n)$. If $n \geq 4$ and $n \in \{p, p + 1, p + 2\}$, $p \in P$, then elements of order $p$ is a component of $S^*(A_n)$.

**Proof.** The proof follows from the fact that the groups $A_n$ and $S_n$ do not have elements of order $kp$, $k \geq 2$. □

**Lemma 2.27.** (Bubboloni et al. [2, Page 24]) Suppose $B_1(n) = P \cap \{n, n - 1\}$ and $\Sigma_n = \{g \in S_n \mid o(g) \not\in B_1(n)\}$, $n \geq 8$. Then $\Sigma_n$ is a component of $S^*(S_n)$.

Set $A = P \cup (P + 1) \cup (P + 2) \cup 2P \cup (2P + 1)$. For the sake of completeness, we mention here a result of [3].

**Theorem 2.28.** (Bubboloni et al. [3, Corollary C]) The proper power graph $\mathcal{P}^*(A_n)$ is connected if and only if $n = 3$ or $n \not\in A$.

**Corollary 2.29.** If $n = 3$ or $n \not\in A$ then $S^*(A_n)$ is connected.

**Proof.** If $n = 3$ or $n \not\in A$ then by Theorem 2.28, the proper power graph $\mathcal{P}^*(A_n)$ is connected. The result now follows from this fact that $\mathcal{P}^*(A_n)$ is a subgraph of $S^*(A_n)$. □

Define $B_2(n) = \{n \mid n \in P, n - 1 \in P, n - 2 \in P, \frac{n}{2} \in P, n - 1 \in P\}$, $\theta_n = (\pi_e(A_n) \setminus \{1\}) \setminus B_2(n)$ and $\xi_n = \{g \in A_n \mid o(g) \in \theta_n\}$. In what follows, the number of connected components of a graph $\Gamma$ is denoted by $c(\Gamma)$. The elements of $B_2(n)$ are called the critical orders of $n$.

**Corollary 2.30.** (Bubboloni et al. [3 Page 15]) There exists a component in $S^*(A_n)$ containing $\xi_n$.

**Theorem 2.31.** The proper order supergraph $S^*(A_n)$ is connected if and only if $n = 3$ or $n, n - 1$ and $n - 2$ are not prime integers. The maximum number of connected component is 3 and the graph $S^*(A_n)$ attained the maximum possible of component if and only if $n \in P \cap (P + 2)$. 

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Proof. We first assume that $n \leq 10$. The graph $S^*(A_2)$ is empty and obviously $c(S^*(A_3)) = 1$. Our calculations by GAP [21] show that

\[
\begin{align*}
\pi_e(A_4) &= \{1, 2, 3\}, \\
\pi_e(A_5) &= \{1, 2, 3, 5\}, \\
\pi_e(A_6) &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \\
\pi_e(A_7) &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}, \\
\pi_e(A_8) &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15\}, \\
\pi_e(A_9) &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15\}, \\
\pi_e(A_{10}) &= \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 21\}.
\end{align*}
\]

From the set of element orders one can see that $c(S^*(A_4)) = 2$, $c(S^*(A_5)) = c(S^*(A_6)) = c(S^*(A_7)) = 3$, $c(S^*(A_8)) = c(S^*(A_9)) = 2$ and $c(S^*(A_{10})) = 1$. If $n \geq 11$ then a similar argument as the proof of [3, Theorem A and Corollary C] will complete the proof.

---

**Theorem 2.32.** The number of connected components of $S^*(S_n)$ can be computed as follows:

1. $c(S^*(S_2)) = 1$ and $c(S^*(S_3)) = c(S^*(S_4)) = c(S^*(S_5)) = c(S^*(S_6)) = c(S^*(S_7)) = 2$.
2. If $n \geq 8$ then $c(S^*(S_n)) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \notin P \cup (P+1) \\ 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$.

Proof. The proof is completely similar to the proof of [2] Theorem B and Corollary C and so it is omitted.

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**Corollary 2.33.** (See Bubboloni et al. [2, Corollary C]) If $n \geq 2$ then $S^*(S_n)$ is 2–connected if and only if $n = 2$ or $n \notin P \cup (P+1)$.

Since the power graph of a group $G$ is a spanning subgraph of the order supergraph of $G$, it is easy to see that 2–connectedness of the power graph implies the same property for the order supergraph. Akbari and Ashrafi [1], conjectured that the power graph of a non-abelian finite simple group $G$ is 2–connected if and only if $G \cong A_n$, where $n = 3$ or $n \notin P \cup (P+1) \cup (P+2) \cup 2P \cup (2P+1)$. They verified this conjecture in some classes of simple groups. We now apply the order supergraph to prove that the power graph of some other classes of simple groups are not 2–connected.
Theorem 2.34. The order supergraph of sporadic groups are not 2-connected.

Proof. It is easy to see that if we can partition $\pi_e(G)$ into subsets $L(G)$ and $K(G)$ such that any element of $L(G)$ is co-prime with any element of $K(G)$ then order supergraph of $G$ is not 2-connected. In Table 1, the set $L(G)$ for a sporadic group $G$ is computed. By this table, one can see that there is no sporadic simple group with 2-connected order supergraph.

$$
L(M_{11}) = \{11, 5\} \quad L(M_{12}) = \{11\} \quad L(McL) = \{11\} \\
L(M_{23}) = \{11, 23\} \quad L(M_{24}) = \{11, 23\} \quad L(Co_2) = \{11, 23\} \\
L(HS) = \{7, 11\} \quad L(J_2) = \{7\} \quad L(Co_1) = \{23\} \\
L(Co_2) = \{23\} \quad L(Suz) = \{11, 13\} \quad L(He) = \{17\} \\
L(HN) = \{19\} \quad L(Th) = \{13, 19, 31\} \quad L(Fi_{22}) = \{13\} \\
L(Fi_{23}) = \{17, 23\} \quad L(Fi'_{24}) = \{17, 23, 29\} \quad L(B) = \{31, 47\} \\
L(M) = \{41, 71, 59\} \quad L(J_1) = \{7, 11, 19\} \quad L(O'N) = \{11, 19, 31\} \\
L(J_3) = \{17, 19\} \quad L(Ru) = \{29\} \quad L(J_4) = \{23, 31, 29, 37, 43\} \\
L(M_{22}) = \{5, 7, 11\} \quad L(Ly) = \{31, 37, 67\}
$$

Table 1. The Set $L(G)$, for all Sporadic Groups $G$.

If two elements $x$ and $y$ in a finite group $G$ have co-prime order then obviously they cannot be adjacent in $P(G)$. In [1], the authors applied this simple observation to prove that the power graph of some classes of simple groups are not connected. The following result is an immediate consequence of [1, Theorems 2-10].

Theorem 2.35. The order supergraph of the following simple groups are not 2-connected:

- (1) $2^2F_4(q)$, where $q = 2^{2m+1}$ and $m \geq 1$;
- (2) $2^2G_2(q)$, 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.

In the end of this paper, we have to say that it remains an open question to classify all simple groups with 2-connected order supergraph.

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