

## A STUDY ON JOHNSON GRAPHS

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### Abstract

The energy of a graph is defined as the sum of the absolute values of its eigenvalues. A strongly regular graph has the property that the number of common neighbours of two distinct vertices depends only on whether they are adjacent or non adjacent. The eigenvalues of a strongly regular graph are determined by its parameters. In this paper an attempt has been made to identify classes of strongly regular Johnson graphs. Energy of such classes are determined by their parameters. For some other classes of Johnson graphs, Frame's method has been used for determining their energies.

**key words:** Johnson graph, Strongly regular graph, Eigenvalues, Energy.

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## 1 Introduction

Johnson graphs form a special class of undirected graphs defined from systems of sets. A regular graph is a graph where each vertex has the same number of neighbours. A strongly regular graph has the property that the number of common neighbours of two distinct vertices depends only on whether they are adjacent or nonadjacent vertices with parameters  $srg(n,k,a,c)$  and its complement is also strongly regular. The eigenvalues of a strongly regular graph are determined by its parameters. The energy of a graph is defined as the sum of the absolute values of its eigenvalues. In this paper an attempt has been made to identify classes of strongly regular Johnson graphs. Energy of such classes are determined by their parameters. For some other classes of Johnson graphs, Frame's method has been used for determining their energies.

## 2 Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1** Let  $G=(V,E)$  be a  $(p,q)$  graph. Let  $V=\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ . The  $p \times p$  matrix  $A=(a_{ij})$  where  $a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v_i, v_j \text{ are adjacent} \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$  is called the adjacency matrix of the graph  $G$ .

**Definition 2.2** [1]:- Sum of the absolute values of the eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix of  $G$  is called energy of the graph  $G$ .

**Frame's method** [2]:-

Frame's method is an alternative method for determining the characteristic polynomial of any matrix. Let  $A$  be a matrix of order  $n$ . Frame wrote down the characteristic equation corresponding to  $A$  in the following form:

$$|\lambda I - A| = \lambda^n - C_1\lambda^{n-1} - C_2\lambda^{n-2} \dots C_{n-1}\lambda - C_n = 0$$

The problem is to obtain the integral coefficients  $C_1, C_2, \dots$  in the characteristic equation. For this we use the polynomial algorithm. This polynomial algorithm is described below.

Let  $A$  be the adjacency matrix of a graph. Construct the matrix  $B_k^s$  as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} B_1 &= A(A - C_1I), C_1 = \text{tr}A, \\ C_2 &= \frac{1}{2}\text{tr}B_1, \\ B_1 &= A(B_1 - C_2I), \\ B_2 &= A(B_1 - C_2I), \\ &\dots \\ &\dots \\ &\dots \\ B_{n-1} &= A(B_{n-1} - C_{n-1}I), \\ C_n &= \frac{\text{tr}B_{n-1}}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the coefficients  $C_k^s$  are generated recursively as traces of matrices.

**Definition 2.3** [3]:- A regular graph is a graph where each vertex has the same number of neighbours.  
 (i.e) every vertex has the same degree or valency.

**Definition 2.4** [3]:- Let  $X$  be a regular graph that is neither complete nor empty. Then,  $X$  is said to be strongly regular with parameters  $(n,k,a,c)$

if it is  $k$ -regular, every pair of adjacent vertices has 'a' common neighbours, and every pair of distinct non adjacent vertices has 'c' common neighbours.

If  $X$  is strongly regular with parameters  $(n, k, a, c)$ , then it's complement  $\bar{X}$  is also strongly regular with parameters  $(n, \bar{k}, \bar{a}, \bar{c})$ , where  $\bar{k} = n - k - 1$ ,  $\bar{a} = n - 2 - 2k + c$ ,  $\bar{c} = n - 2k + a$

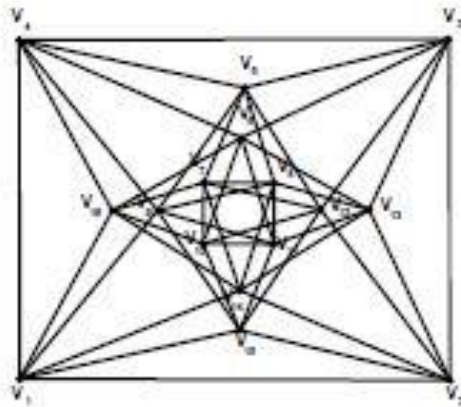


Fig.1 Shrikhande graph

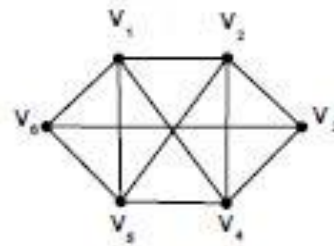


Fig.2

- (i) Fig.1 graph is a shrikhande graph which is strongly regular with parameters  $(16, 6, 2, 2)$
- (ii) Fig.2 graph is not strongly regular. since, there is any two adjacent vertices which is not contain same common neighbours.

**Eigenvalues:-**

Suppose  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of the  $(n, k, a, c)$  strongly regular graph  $X$ . We can determine the eigenvalues of the matrix  $A$  from the parameters of  $X$ .

The eigenvalues  $k, \theta$  and  $\tau$  are given by

$$\theta = \frac{(a-c) + \sqrt{\Delta}}{2}, \tau = \frac{(a-c) - \sqrt{\Delta}}{2}, k = \text{valency of the graph}$$

where  $\Delta = (a-c)^2 - 4(k-c)$ .

The multiplicities of the eigenvalues  $\theta, \tau$  are given by

$$m_{\theta} = \frac{1}{2} \left( (n-1) - \frac{2k+(n-1)(a-c)}{\sqrt{\Delta}} \right) \text{ and}$$

$$m_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \left( (n-1) + \frac{2k+(n-1)(a-c)}{\sqrt{\Delta}} \right)$$

**Definition 2.5** [3]:- Let  $\gamma, k, i$  be fixed positive integers  $\gamma \geq k \geq i$ . Let  $\Omega$  be a fixed set of size  $\gamma$ . Define  $J(\gamma, k, i)$  as follows: The vertices of  $J(\gamma, k, i)$  are the subsets of  $\Omega$  with size  $k$ . Join two vertices if their intersection has size  $i$ .

**Example 2.6** The graph  $J(4, 2, 1)$  is given below in Fig.3

Here  $\gamma=4, k=2, i=1$ , Let  $\Omega=\{a, b, c, d\}$

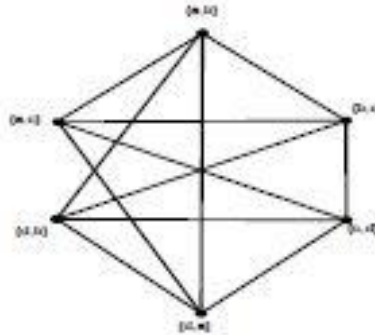


Fig 3.  $J(4, 2, 1)$

**Note 2.7** Some of the Johnson graphs are strongly regular and some are not strongly regular.

**Example 2.8**  $J(5, 2, 1)$  is a strongly regular graph

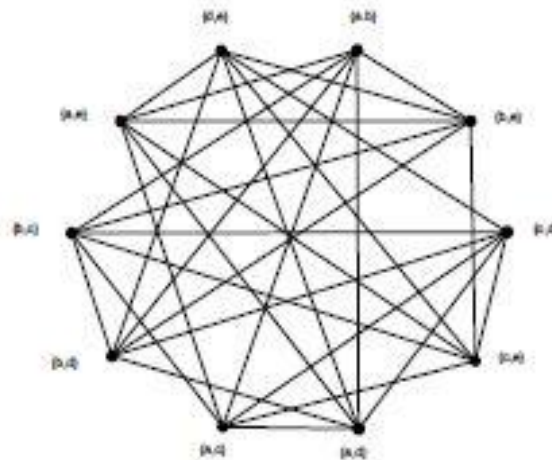


Fig 4.  $J(5, 2, 1)$

Here  $\gamma=5, k=2, i=1, \Omega=\{a, b, c, d, e\}, n=10$

In this graph, the number of vertices =  $\binom{5}{2} = 10$

$$\therefore \text{valency of the graph} = \binom{2}{1} \binom{5-2}{2-1} = 6$$

$\therefore$  number of common neighbours of any two adjacent vertices is 3.

Hence number of common neighbours of any two non adjacent vertices is 4. Parameters  $n, k, a, c$  are given below:

$n$	$k$	$a$	$c$
10	6	3	4

**Example 2.9**  $J(6,3,2)$  is not a strongly regular graph.

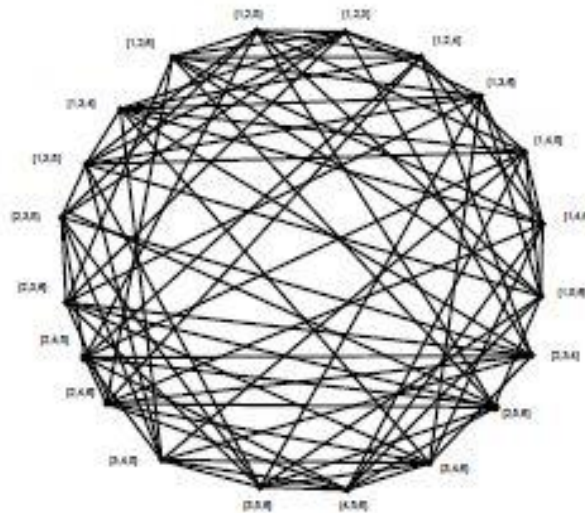


Fig 5.  $J(6,3,2)$

For the nonadjacent vertices  $\{a, b, d\}, \{a, c, f\}$ , there is one common element  $a$ .

Then the common neighbours of  $\{a, b, d\}, \{a, c, f\}$  are  $\{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, f\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{a, d, f\}$ .

For the vertices  $\{a, b, c\}, \{d, e, f\}$ , there is no common element.

Hence they are nonadjacent. These two vertices have no common neighbour.

$\therefore J(6,3,2)$  is not a strongly regular graph.

### 3 Strongly regular Johnson graphs

**Theorem 3.1**  $J(\gamma, 3, 2)$  is not strongly regular for  $\gamma > 5$

proof:

$J(\gamma, 3, 2)$  is a graph with  $\binom{\gamma}{3}$  vertices.

The vertices of  $J(\gamma, 3, 2)$  are the subsets of  $\Omega$  with size 3 where  $\Omega$  is a fixed set of size  $\gamma$ . Two vertices are adjacent if their intersection has size 2.

Let  $V(J) = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t\}$

Consider two nonadjacent vertices  $V_i, V_j$  of  $J$ .

Then either  $V_i \cap V_j = \Phi$  or  $|V_i \cap V_j| = 1$ .

case(i):-

$$V_i \cap V_j = \Phi$$

Let  $V_i = \{a, b, c\}, V_j = \{d, e, f\}$ , such a pair exists

since  $\gamma \geq 6$

There is no common neighbour for  $V_i, V_j$ .

case(ii):-

$$|V_i \cap V_j| = 1$$

Let  $V_i = \{a, b, c\}, V_j = \{a, d, e\}$ . Then  $\{a, b, d\}$  is a common neighbour of  $V_i$  and  $V_j$ .

$\therefore$  number of common neighbours of  $V_i, V_j \geq 1$

Since  $\gamma > 5$ , case(i) and case(ii) occur.

Hence  $J(\gamma, 3, 2)$  is not a strongly regular graph when  $\gamma > 5$ .

**Note 3.2**  $J(5, 3, 2)$  is strongly regular

solution:-

Consider the graph  $J(5, 3, 2)$

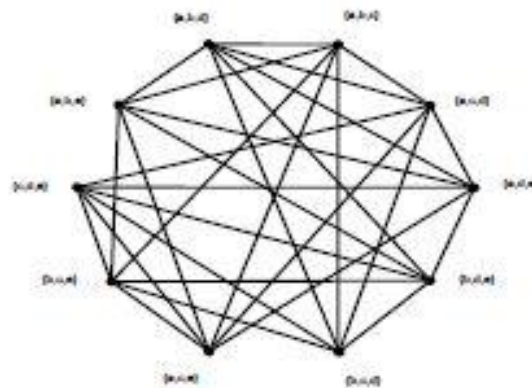


Fig 6.  $J(5, 3, 2)$

Here  $\gamma=5, k=3, i=2, \Omega=\{a, b, c, d, e\}, n=10$

In this graph, the number of vertices =  $\binom{5}{3}=10$

$\therefore$  valency of the graph = 6

Consider two adjacent vertices of  $J(5,3,2)$

Without loss of generality, let them be  $(a,b,c), (a,c,d)$

The common neighbours of  $(a,b,c), (a,c,d)$  are  $(a,c,e), (b,c,d), (a,b,d)$   
 i.e., the vertices having a,c together with the members of  $\Omega \setminus \{a,b,c,d\}$

and the vertex containing the distinct elements of chosen vertices.

$\therefore$  number of common neighbours of any two adjacent vertices is 3.

consider two nonadjacent vertices, say  $(a,c,e), (b,c,d)$

The common neighbours are  $(a,c,d), (a,b,c), (c,d,e), (b,c,e)$

Hence number of common neighbours of any two nonadjacent vertices is 4. Parameters  $n,k,a,c$  and the eigenvalues  $\theta, \tau$  together with their multiplicities are given below:

n	k	a	c	$\theta$	$\tau$	$m_\theta$	$m_\tau$
10	6	3	4	1	-2	4	5

$$\text{Energy of } J(5,3,2) = k + m_\theta |\theta| + m_\tau |\tau| = 20$$

**Note 3.3**  $J(4,3,2)$  is a complete graph

**Theorem 3.4** Energy of  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  is

$$\frac{2\gamma^3 - 10\gamma^2 + 12\gamma}{\gamma - 2}$$

**proof:-**

Consider the graph  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$

By construction the vertex set of  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  is the set of all subsets of size 2 of  $\Omega$ . Join two vertices if their intersection has size 1.

Let  $V(J) = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_s\}$  in  $\Omega$

$\therefore$  the number of vertices of  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  is  $\binom{\gamma}{2}$

$\therefore$  valency of the graph =  $2(\gamma - 2)$

Consider two adjacent vertices of  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$

Without loss of generality, let them be  $V_i = \{1, 2\}, V_j = \{1, 3\}$ .

The common neighbours of  $V_i, V_j$  are  $\{1, x\}$ ,

$x \in \Omega \setminus \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{2, 3\}$ .

$\therefore$  total number of common neighbours of any two adjacent

vertices is  $\gamma - 2$ .

Any two nonadjacent vertices in  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  should be disjoint 2-sets.

Without loss of generality let  $V_i = \{1, 2\}$  and  $V_j = \{3, 4\}$ .

Any common neighbour of  $V_i, V_j$  should have one element from  $V_i$  and one element from  $V_j$

Hence number of common neighbours is  $2 \times 2 = 4$

$\therefore J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  is a strongly regular graph with parameters

$$\left(\binom{\gamma}{2}, 2(\gamma - 2), \gamma - 2, 4\right).$$

The eigenvalues  $\theta$  and  $\tau$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \frac{a-c+\sqrt{\Delta}}{2}, \text{ where } \Delta = (a-c)^2 + 4(a-c) \\ &= (\gamma - 2 - 4)^2 + 4(2\gamma - 4 - 4) \\ &= (\gamma - 6)^2 + 4(2\gamma - 8) \\ &= \gamma^2 - 12\gamma + 36 + 8\gamma - 32 \\ &= \gamma^2 - 4\gamma + 4 \\ &= (\gamma - 2)(\gamma - 2) = (\gamma - 2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\theta = \frac{(\gamma - 2 - 4) + \gamma - 2}{2} = \frac{2\gamma - 8}{2}$$

$$\tau = \frac{(\gamma - 2 - 4) - \gamma + 2}{2} = -2$$

$\therefore$  the eigenvalues  $\theta$  and  $\tau$  are  $\theta = \frac{2\gamma - 8}{2}, \tau = -2$

The multiplicities of the eigenvalues  $\theta, \tau$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} m_\theta &= \frac{1}{2} \left( (n - 1) - \frac{2k + (n - 1)(a - c)}{\sqrt{\Delta}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(n - 1)(\gamma - 2) - [3\gamma + \gamma n - 6n - 2]}{\gamma - 2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{2(-\gamma + n + 1)}{\gamma - 2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$n = \binom{\gamma}{2} = \frac{\gamma(\gamma - 1)}{2} \implies$$

$$m_\theta = \frac{\gamma^2 - 3\gamma + 2}{\gamma - 2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_\tau &= \frac{1}{2} \left( (n - 1) + \frac{2k + (n - 1)(a - c)}{\sqrt{\Delta}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(n - 1)(\gamma - 2) + 3\gamma + \gamma n - 6n - 2}{\gamma - 2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\gamma n - 4n + 7}{\gamma - 2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$n = \binom{\gamma}{2} = \frac{\gamma(\gamma - 1)}{2} \implies$$

$$m_\tau = \frac{\gamma^2 - 5\gamma + 6}{2(\gamma - 2)}$$



Energy of  $J(\gamma, 2, 1) = k + m_\theta |\theta| + m_\tau |\tau|$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(J(\gamma, 2, 1)) &= 2(\gamma - 2) + \frac{\gamma^2 - 3\gamma + 2}{\gamma - 2} \left| \frac{2\gamma - 8}{2} \right| + \left( \frac{\gamma^3 - 5\gamma^2 + 6\gamma}{2(\gamma - 2)} \right) |-2| \\
 &= \frac{4(\gamma - 2)^2 + (\gamma^2 - 3\gamma + 2)(2\gamma - 8) + 2\gamma^3 - 10\gamma^2 + 12\gamma}{2(\gamma - 2)} \\
 &= \frac{4\gamma^3 - 20\gamma^2 + 24\gamma}{2(\gamma - 2)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore E(J(\gamma, 2, 1)) = \frac{2\gamma^3 - 10\gamma^2 + 12\gamma}{\gamma - 2}$$

Energy of some strongly regular Johnson graphs otherthan  $J(\gamma, 2, 1)$  are tabulated below:

Graph	n	k	a	c	$\theta$	$\tau$	$m_\theta$	$m_\tau$	Energy
J(5,3,2)	10	6	3	4	1	-2	4	5	20
J(6,4,3)	15	8	4	4	2	-2	5	9	36
J(7,4,3)	35	12	5	4	$1 + \sqrt{33}/2$	$1 - \sqrt{33}/2$	12	22	104.67
J(7,5,4)	21	10	5	4	3	-2	6	14	56
J(8,5,4)	56	15	6	4	$1 + 2\sqrt{3}$	$1 - 2\sqrt{3}$	17	38	184.53
J(8,6,5)	28	12	6	4	4	-2	7	20	80
J(9,7,6)	36	14	5	4	-2	-2	8	27	108
J(10,8,7)	45	16	8	4	6	-2	9	35	140

Eigenvalues of some Johnson graphs which are not strongly regular by using Frame's method:

Graph	Characteristic polynomial	Energy
J(6,3,2)	$  \begin{aligned}  &\lambda^{20} - 89\lambda^{18} - 240\lambda^{17} + 2124\lambda^{16} - 3555\lambda^{15} - 4041\lambda^{14} \\  &+ 3918\lambda^{13} + 3535\lambda^{12} - 342\lambda^{11} + 1826\lambda^{10} + 1252\lambda^9 \\  &- 1280\lambda^8 - 563\lambda^7 - 173\lambda^6 - 2043\lambda^5 - 412\lambda^4 \\  &- 383\lambda^3 - 412\lambda^2 - 19\lambda + 1622  \end{aligned}  $	57.162
J(7,3,2)	$  \begin{aligned}  &\lambda^{35} - 207\lambda^{33} - 697\lambda^{32} - 1315\lambda^{31} - 163\lambda^{30} - 2333\lambda^{29} \\  &- 4481\lambda^{28} + 2907\lambda^{27} + 3640\lambda^{26} + 595\lambda^{25} + 225\lambda^{24} + 63\lambda^{23} + 1831\lambda^{22} \\  &- 1790\lambda^{21} - 1991\lambda^{20} - 412\lambda^{19} - 383\lambda^{18} - 412\lambda^{17} - 1357\lambda^{16} - 559\lambda^{15} \\  &+ 1167\lambda^{14} - 284\lambda^{13} - 1144\lambda^{12} + 771\lambda^{11} + 313\lambda^{10} + 754\lambda^9 - 558\lambda^8 \\  &+ 15\lambda^{10} + 749\lambda^9 + 607\lambda^8 - 1023\lambda^7 + 915\lambda^6 - 179\lambda^5 + 108\lambda^4 \\  &- 737\lambda^3 + 380\lambda^2 + 197\lambda + 625  \end{aligned}  $	283.438

## 4 conclusion

In this paper, energy has been determined for some strongly regular johnson graph parameter and this type of work may be extended to other Johnson graphs as well as to some other families of graphs.

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