

# 1 Introduction

Spectral characterization is an important subject in algebraic graph theory. Some properties of a graph can be recognized from the spectrum of it. For example, a graph is bipartite if and only if its eigenvalues are located symmetrically to the origin [1, Theorem 8.8.2]. Another well-known result is that a graph is regular if and only if its largest eigenvalue equal to its average valency [2, Lemma 3.2.1]. See Lemma 2.2 below. Spectral characterization of strongly regular graphs can also be done [3, Theorem 8.6.37]. Here we are interested in the question: Is a graph with the same spectrum of a distance-regular graph distance-regular? That is, for a graph, is the distance-regularity determined by its spectrum? The answer is no and there exist many counterexamples. See Remark 4.4. But furthermore, by imposing some restrictions on the conditions of the distance-regular graphs we consider, such as distance-regular graphs with some special given intersection parameters, the answer can be yes. In [8], by assuming the odd cycles in a given distance-regular graph have length greater than 2 times its diameter, Huang and Liu proved a graph with the same spectrum of it is a distance-regular graph too. In [5][6], the result is generalized that for two graphs with the same spectrum, if the girth  $g$  satisfies  $g \geq 2d - 1$  in the known distance-regular one, then the other is distance-regular too where  $d$  is the diameter of  $G$ . In [4], by assuming  $c_{d-1} = 1$  in one graph, the other cospectral graph is shown to be distance-regular and have the same intersection parameters. In this thesis, we present a uniform way to this line of study. As a consequence, we can reprove the above mentioned results [3, Theorem 8.6.37],[4],[5],[6]. See Theorem 4.1, Corollary 4.2. Furthermore, we show that if two cospectral graphs have the same average number of vertices in the  $t$ -subconstituent with respect to a vertex for each  $t$ , then one is distance-regular implies the other is distance-regular. See Theorem 4.3 for details.

## 2 Preliminary

Let  $G = (X, R)$  be a finite undirected, connected graph, without loops or multiple edges, with vertex set  $X$ , edge set  $R$ , path length distance function  $\delta$  and diameter  $d := \max\{\delta(x, y) | x, y \in X\}$ . Sometimes we write  $\text{diam}(G)$  to denote the diameter of  $G$ . By a subgraph of  $G$ , we mean a graph  $(\Delta, \Xi)$ , where  $\Delta$  is a non-empty subset of  $X$  and  $\Xi = \{\{xy\} | x, y \in \Delta, \{xy\} \in R\}$ . We refer to  $(\Delta, \Xi)$  as the subgraph induced on  $\Delta$  and, by abuse of notation, we refer to this subgraph as  $\Delta$ . For any  $x \in X$  and any integer  $i$ , set

$$G_i(x) := \{y | y \in X, \delta(x, y) = i\}.$$

The *valency*  $k(x)$  of a vertex is the cardinality of  $G_1(x)$ . The graph  $G$  is said to be *regular* with valency  $k$  whenever each vertex in  $X$  has valency  $k$ . For any  $x \in X$ , for any integer  $i$ , and for any  $y \in G_i(x)$ , set

$$\begin{aligned} B(x, y) &:= G_1(y) \cap G_{i+1}(x), \\ A(x, y) &:= G_1(y) \cap G_i(x), \\ C(x, y) &:= G_1(y) \cap G_{i-1}(x). \end{aligned}$$

For all  $x, y \in X$  with  $\delta(x, y) = i$ , the numbers

$$c_i := |C(x, y)|, \quad a_i := |A(x, y)|, \quad b_i := |B(x, y)|.$$

are said to be *well-defined* if they are independent of  $x$  and  $y$ .  $G$  is said to be *t-distance-regular* whenever for all integers  $i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq t$ ),  $a_{i-1}, b_{i-1}, c_i$  are all well-defined. A d-distance-regular graph is also called a *distance-regular graph*. The constants  $c_i, a_i$  and  $b_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq d$ ) are known as the *intersection numbers* or *intersection parameters* of  $G$ . Note that the valency  $k = b_0, c_0 = 0, c_1 = 1, b_d = 0$  and

$$k = c_i + a_i + b_i \quad (0 \leq i \leq d).$$

Let  $k_i(x)$  denotes the cardinality of  $G_i(x)$ . For a distance-regular graph  $G$ , we know that  $k_i(x)$  is a constant for any  $x \in G$  for all  $i$ . We denote this constant by  $k_i$ . A graph is said to be *strongly regular with parameters*  $(n, k, a, c)$  if it is regular with valency  $k$ , every pair of adjacent vertices has  $a$  common neighbors, and every pair of distinct nonadjacent vertices has  $c$

common neighbors, where  $c > 0$ . We see that a strongly regular graph is a distance-regular graph with diameter 2 with intersection parameters

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 &= 0, & a_0 &= 0, & b_0 &= k, \\ c_1 &= 1, & a_1 &= a, & b_1 &= k - a - 1, \\ c_2 &= c, & a_2 &= k - c, & b_2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For the *adjacency matrix*  $A$  of a graph  $G$ , we mean a symmetric  $(0, 1)$ -matrix determined by  $G$  with rows and columns indexed by the vertices of  $G$ , and with entries

$$A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x, y \text{ is adjacent,} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since the adjacency matrix  $A$  of a graph  $G$  is a real symmetric matrix, we have that the eigenvalues of  $A$  are all real numbers. We represent the distinct eigenvalues of  $A$  with their corresponding multiplicities by an array as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \cdots & \theta_d \\ m_0 & m_1 & \cdots & m_d \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\theta_0 > \theta_1 > \cdots > \theta_d$ . Note  $m_0 + m_1 + \cdots + m_d = v$  where  $v$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ . This array is said to be the *spectrum* of  $G$ . Two graphs are said to be *cospectral* if they have the same spectrum.

The following Lemma follows immediately from linear algebra.

**Lemma 2.1.**  $Tr(A^n) = \sum_{i=0}^d m_i \theta_i^n$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $G = (X, R)$  be a graph with  $v$  vertices and have average valency  $\bar{k} = \frac{1}{v} \sum_{x \in X} k(x)$ . Let  $A$  be the adjacency matrix of  $G$  with eigenvalues  $\theta_0 \geq \theta_1 \geq \cdots \geq \theta_v$ . We have  $\theta_0 \geq \bar{k}$ , with equality if and only if  $G$  is regular.

*Proof.* Let  $\beta = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_v\}$  be an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^v$  which are all eigenvectors of  $A$ , and let  $\theta_i$  be the corresponding eigenvalue of  $u_i$ . Consider the all-1 vector  $\mathbf{1}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^v$ . We can express  $\mathbf{1}$  in terms of a linear combination of  $\beta$ , that is,  $\mathbf{1} = \sum_{i=1}^v a_i u_i$ . We have that  $v = \mathbf{1}^t \mathbf{1} = \sum_{i=1}^v a_i^2$ , and  $\sum_{x \in X} k(x) =$

$v\bar{k} = \mathbf{1}^t A \mathbf{1} = \sum_{i=1}^v a_i^2 \theta_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^v a_i^2 \theta_0 = v\theta_0$ , so  $\bar{k} \leq \theta_0$ . The equality holds if and only if  $a_i(\theta_0 - \theta_i) = 0$  for all  $i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq v$ ), that is,  $A\mathbf{1} = \theta_0\mathbf{1}$ , i.e.,  $G$  is regular with valency  $\theta_0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $G = (X, R)$  be a graph with  $v$  vertices and has spectrum*

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \cdots & \theta_d \\ m_0 & m_1 & \cdots & m_d \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\theta_0 > \theta_1 > \cdots > \theta_d$ . Then the following (i)-(ii) are equivalent.

- (i)  $\sum_{i=0}^d m_i \theta_i^2 = v\theta_0$
- (ii)  $G$  is regular with valency  $\theta_0$ .

*Proof.* Observe  $(A^2)_{xx} = k(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Hence we have that  $\sum_{i=1}^d m_i \theta_i^2 = \text{Tr}(A^2) = \sum_{x \in X} k(x) = v\bar{k}$ . Then simply applying Lemma 2.2, we have that (i)-(ii) are equivalent.  $\square$

We quote a Theorem from [1, Lemma 8.12.1].

**Theorem 2.4.** *If  $G$  is a graph with diameter  $d$ , then  $A(G)$  has at least  $d+1$  distinct eigenvalues.*

### 3 t-distance-regular graphs

Let  $G = (X, E)$  and  $G' = (X', E')$  be two connected graphs with the same spectrum

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \cdots & \theta_d \\ m_0 & m_1 & \cdots & m_d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $t \leq d$  be a positive integer. Suppose  $G$  is  $t$ -distance-regular. That is in  $G$  the parameters  $a_i, b_i,$  and  $c_{i+1}, (0 \leq i \leq t-1)$  are well-defined. Hence  $k_i (0 \leq i \leq t)$  is well defined. Suppose  $G'$  is  $(t-1)$ -distance-regular, the parameters  $a'_i, b'_i,$  and  $c'_{i+1}, (0 \leq i \leq t-2)$  are well-defined. Furthermore assume these parameters are the same as the corresponding intersection parameters of  $G$ . Hence  $k'_i = k_i (0 \leq i \leq t-1)$ . Let  $A, A'$  denote the adjacency matrices of  $G, G'$  respectively.

**Lemma 3.1.**  $\sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y) = vk_{t-1}a_{t-1}$ , where  $v = |X| = \sum_{i=0}^d m_i$ .

*Proof.* The number of closed walks of length  $2t-1$  through  $x$  in  $G'$  is  $(A'^{2t-1})_{xx}$ . These closed walks divide into 2 parts. One contains an edge in the induced subgraph  $G'_{t-1}(x)$  and the other does not. The number of the first part is

$$\sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y)(c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2).$$

Let  $K$  denote the number of remaining closed walks. Hence

$$K + \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y)(c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) = (A'^{2t-1})_{xx}. \quad (3.1)$$

Note  $K$  can be expressed in terms of the known (and well-defined) intersection parameters. Then we know that

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(A'^{2t-1}) &= \sum_{x \in X'} (A'^{2t-1})_{xx} \\ &= vK + \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y)(c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(A^{2t-1}) &= vK + \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in G_{t-1}(x)} a_{t-1}(c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &= vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}(c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Since  $A$  and  $A'$  have the same spectrum, we know that

$$\text{Tr}(A'^{2t-1}) = \text{Tr}(A^{2t-1}).$$

Thus by (3.2)-(3.3)

$$\sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y) = vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}.$$

□

**Corollary 3.2.** *Suppose either  $a'_{t+1}(x, y) \geq a_{t-1}$  or  $a'_{t-1}(x, y) \leq a_{t-1}$  for any  $x \in X', y \in G'_{t-1}(x)$ . Then  $a'_{t-1} = a_{t-1}$ .*

*Proof.* It's trivial by Lemma 3.1. □

**Lemma 3.3.**  $\sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z) = vk_{t-1} b_{t-1} = vk_t c_t.$

*Proof.* For each  $x \in X'$ , by counting the number of edges between  $G'_{t-1}(x)$  and  $G'_t(x)$  in two ways and Lemma 3.1,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z) &= \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} b'_{t-1}(x, y) \\ &= \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} (k_1 - c_{t-1} - a'_{t-1}(x, y)) \\ &= vk_{t-1}(k_1 - c_{t-1}) - \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y) \\ &= vk_{t-1}(k_1 - c_{t-1}) - vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} \\ &= vk_{t-1} b_{t-1} \\ &= vk_t c_t. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $\bar{k}'_t$  denotes  $\frac{1}{v}$  times the cardinality of the set  $\{(x, z) \mid x, z \in G', d(x, z) = t\}$ . Suppose either  $\bar{k}'_t \geq k_t$  and  $c'_t(x, z) \geq c_t$ , or  $\bar{k}'_t \leq k_t$  and  $c'_t(x, z) \leq c_t$  for any  $x \in X, z \in G'_t(x)$ . Then  $\bar{k}'_t = k_t$  and  $c'_t = c_t$ .

*Proof.* It's trivial by Lemma 3.3.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(A^{2t}) = vC &+ \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1) \end{aligned}$$

for some constant  $C$  determined by  $a_i, b_i, c_{i+1}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq t-2$ ).

*Proof.* For any vertex  $x$  of  $G'$ , we count the number of closed walks  $x = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{2t} = x$ . There are 4 cases.

Case 1 :  $x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1} \in G'_{t-1}(x)$ . The number of closed walks in this case can be expressed as

$$\sum_{x_t \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, x_t)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2).$$

Case 2 :  $x_t \in G'_t(x)$ . The number of closed walks in this case can be expressed as

$$\sum_{x_t \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, x_t)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2).$$

Case 3 :  $x_t \in G'_{t-1}(x), |\{x_{t-1}, x_{t+1}\} \cap G'_{t-1}(x)| = 1$ . The number of closed walks in this case can be expressed as

$$\sum_{x_t \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, x_t) (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1).$$

By simply apply Lemma 3.1, we know that this term equals

$$vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1).$$

Case 4 : The remaining cases. The number of closed walks in this case can be expressed as a known constant  $C$ .

As before, we know the number of the closed walks of length  $2t$  is  $Tr(A^{2t})$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(A^{2t}) = vC &+ \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $C$  be as in Lemma 3.5. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(A^{2t}) = vC &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_t c_t^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We express  $Tr(A^{2t})$  by the way in Lemma 3.5.

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(A^{2t}) = vC &+ \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in G_{t-1}(x)} a_{t-1}(x, y)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{z \in G_t(x)} c_t(x, z)^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in G_{t-1}(x)} a_{t-1}(x, y) (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1). \end{aligned}$$

Since the intersection parameters  $a_{t-1}, c_t$  are well-defined and known in  $G$ , we simply substitute the parameters in and get the result. □

**Lemma 3.7.**

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(A^{2t}) \geq vC &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_t c_t (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) \\ &+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \cdots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \cdots + a_1). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

Furthermore, the following (i)-(ii) are equivalent.

(i) Equality holds in (3.4).

(ii)  $a'_{t-1}(x, y) = a_{t-1}, c'_t(x, z) = 1$  for any  $x \in X', y \in G'_{t-1}(x), z \in G'_t(x)$ .



*Proof.* Applying Cauchy's inequality and  $c'_t(x, z)^2 \geq c'_t(x, z)$  on the expression of  $Tr(A'^{2t})$  in Lemma 3.5, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
Tr(A'^{2t}) &\geq vC + \frac{1}{vk_{t-1}} \left( \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y) (c_{t-1} c_{t-2} \dots c_2) \right)^2 \\
&+ \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z) (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1) \\
&= vC + \frac{1}{vk_{t-1}} (vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1} c_{t-2} \dots c_2))^2 \\
&+ vk_{t-1} b_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1) \\
&= vC + vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}^2 (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) \\
&+ vk_{t-1} b_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1).
\end{aligned}$$

The above equality holds if and only if  $a'_{t-1}(x, y) = a_{t-1}$  and  $c'_t(x, z) = 1$  for any  $x, y, z$  with  $\delta(x, y) = t - 1$  and  $\delta(x, z) = t$ .

The equivalence of (i)-(ii) is clear.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.**

$$\begin{aligned}
Tr(A'^{2t}) &\geq vC + vk_{t-1} a_{t-1}^2 (c_{t-1}^2 \dots c_2^2) \\
&+ \frac{(vk_t c_t c_{t-1} \dots c_2)^2}{v\bar{k}'_t} \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1). \quad (3.5)
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, the following (i)-(ii) are equivalent.

(i) Equality holds in (3.5),  $\bar{k}'_t = k_t$ .

(ii)  $a'_{t-1}(x, y) = a_{t-1}$ ,  $c'_t(x, z) = c_t$  for any  $x \in X, y \in G'_{t-1}(x), z \in G'_t(x)$ .

*Proof.* Applying Cauchy's inequality on the expression of  $Tr(A'^{2t})$  in Lemma 3.5,

it follows

$$\begin{aligned}
Tr(A^{2t}) &\geq vC + \frac{1}{vk_{t-1}} \left( \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{y \in G'_{t-1}(x)} a'_{t-1}(x, y) c_{t-1} c_{t-2} \dots c_2 \right)^2 \\
&+ \frac{1}{v\bar{k}'_t} \left( \sum_{x \in X'} \sum_{z \in G'_t(x)} c'_t(x, z) c_{t-1} c_{t-2} \dots c_2 \right)^2 \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1). \\
&= vC + \frac{1}{vk_{t-1}} (vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} c_{t-1} c_{t-2} \dots c_2)^2 \\
&+ \frac{(vk_t c_t c_{t-1} \dots c_2)^2}{v\bar{k}'_t} \\
&+ vk_{t-1} a_{t-1} (c_{t-1}^2 c_{t-2}^2 \dots c_2^2) (a_{t-2} + \dots + a_1).
\end{aligned}$$

(i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii) is clear. (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) is from the observation that the last term in the above equation is  $Tr(A^{2t})$  which is equal to  $Tr(A'^{2t})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.9.** *Suppose  $c_t = 1$ . Then  $a'_{t-1}, b'_{t-1}, c'_t$  are well-defined, and are the same as the corresponding ones in  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Comparing to Collary 3.6 and using  $c_t = 1$ , we find the equality in Lemma 3.7 holds. Hence  $a'_{t-1}, c'_t$  are well-defined. Note  $b'_{t-1} = b_0 - c_{t-1} - a'_{t-1}$ .  $\square$

## 4 Applications

**Theorem 4.1.** [4, Theorem 1] Let  $G = (X, E)$  and  $G' = (X', E')$  be two connected graphs with the same spectrum

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \cdots & \theta_d \\ m_0 & m_1 & \cdots & m_d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Suppose that  $G$  is distance-regular with intersection parameters  $a_i, b_i, c_i$  for  $0 \leq i \leq d$ . Suppose  $c_j = 1$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d-1$ . Then  $G'$  is a distance-regular graph with the same intersection parameters of  $G$ .

*Proof.* We first show  $a'_i = a_i, b'_i = b_i, c'_{i+1} = c_{i+1} = 1$  ( $0 \leq i \leq d-2$ ) by induction on  $i$ .  $a'_0 = 0 = a_0, c'_1 = 1 = c_1$  are clear.  $b'_0 = b_0$  is from Theorem 2.3. Hence we have the case  $i = 0$ . Suppose this is true for  $i \leq t-2$ . The case  $i = t-1$  is true from Lemma 3.9. So we have  $a'_i = a_i, b'_i = b_i, c'_{i+1} = c_{i+1} = 1$  ( $0 \leq i \leq d-2$ ). For the remaining parameters, we know  $k'_i = k_i$  is well-defined for each  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ . Note the diameter of  $G'$  is at most  $d$  by Lemma 2.4. Hence  $k'_d = v - k_0 - k_1 \cdots - k_{d-1}$  is well-defined. Then the equality in Lemma 3.8 (iii) holds for  $t = d$ , so by Lemma 3.8 (ii) we have  $a'_{d-1} = a_{d-1}, c'_d = c_d$ . Note  $a'_d = b_0 - c_d = a_d$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.2.** *Let  $G$  be a strongly regular graph. Suppose that  $G'$  is a graph with the same spectrum of  $G$ . Then  $G'$  is a strongly regular graph with the same intersection parameters of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* This is immediate from Theorem 4.1 since  $c_1 = 1$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $G$  be a distance-regular graph. Suppose  $G'$  is a graph with the same spectrum of  $G$ . Furthermore, with referring to Corollary 3.4, suppose  $\bar{k}'_i = k_i$ . Then  $G'$  is a distance-regular graph with the same intersection parameters.*

*Proof.* We show  $a'_i = a_i, b'_i = b_i, c'_{i+1} = c_{i+1}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ ) by induction on  $i$ .  $a'_0 = a_0, c'_1 = 1 = c_1$  are clear.  $b'_0 = b_0$  is from Theorem 2.3. Hence we have the case  $i = 0$ . Suppose this is true for  $i \leq t-2$ . Since Lemma 3.8 (iii) holds, we have Lemma 3.8 (ii). Then  $a'_{t-1} = a_{t-1}$  and  $c'_t = c_t$ . Note  $b'_{t-1} = b_0 - c_{t-1} - a_{t-1}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 4.4.** [6, Example 2.] The Gosset graph  $\Gamma$  is the unique distance-regular graph on 56 vertices with intersection array  $\{27, 10, 1; 1, 10, 27\}$ . Notice that in  $\Gamma$ ,  $k_0 = 1, k_1 = 27, k_2 = 27, k_3 = 1$ . We have a graph  $\Gamma'$  with

diameter 2 which is obtained by taking some special kind of switching on  $\Gamma$  such that in  $\Gamma'$ ,  $k'_0 = 1, k'_1 = 27, k'_2 = 28$  where  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma'$  are cospectral.

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