Construction of strongly regular Cayley graphs based on three-valued Gauss periods

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we give a construction of strongly regular Cayley graphs on the additive groups of finite fields based on three-valued Gauss periods. As consequences, we obtain two infinite families and one sporadic example of new strongly regular Cayley graphs. This construction can be viewed as a generalization of that of strongly regular Cayley graphs obtained in [3].

1. Introduction

A strongly regular graph with parameters (v, k, λ, μ) is a simple undirected k-regular graph Γ on the set of v vertices satisfying the following conditions: for any two vertices x and y,

$$|\{z \in V(\Gamma) : (x, z), (y, z) \in E(\Gamma)\}| = \begin{cases} \lambda, & \text{if } (x, y) \in E(\Gamma), \\ \mu, & \text{if } (x, y) \notin E(\Gamma), \end{cases}$$

where $V(\Gamma)$ is the set of vertices of Γ and $E(\Gamma)$ is the set of edges of Γ . A strongly regular graph is said to be of *Latin square type* (resp. *negative Latin square type*) if it has parameters $(v, k, \lambda, \mu) = (n^2, r(n - \epsilon), \epsilon n + r^2 - 3\epsilon r, r^2 - \epsilon r)$ with $\epsilon = 1$ (resp. $\epsilon = -1$). A regular graph, not complete or edgeless, is strongly regular if and only if its adjacency matrix has exactly two restricted eigenvalues [5, Theorem 9.1.2]. Here, we say that an eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix is *restricted* if it has an eigenvector perpendicular to the all-ones vector.

An effective way for constructing strongly regular graphs is to use Cayley graphs. Let G be a finite (additively written) abelian group and D be an inverse-closed subset of $G \setminus \{0_G\}$, where 0_G is the identity of G. We define a graph $\operatorname{Cay}(G, D)$ with the elements of G as its vertices; two vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if $x - y \in D$. The graph $\operatorname{Cay}(G, D)$ is called a *Cayley graph* on G with connection set D. The eigenvalues of $\operatorname{Cay}(G, D)$ are given by $\psi(D)$, $\psi \in \widehat{G}$, where \widehat{G} is the group consisting of all characters of G. By the aforementioned characterization of strongly regular graphs, $\operatorname{Cay}(G, D)$ with connection set $D(\neq \emptyset, G)$ is strongly regular if and only if $\psi(D)$, $\psi \in \widehat{G} \setminus \{\psi_0\}$, take exactly two values, where ψ_0 is the identity of \widehat{G} . If $\operatorname{Cay}(G, D)$ is strongly regular, the set D is often called a *partial difference set* on G. For basic results on strongly regular Cayley graphs and partial difference sets, we refer the reader to the survey [21].

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A classical method for constructing strongly regular Cayley graphs in the additive groups (i.e., elementary abelian groups) of finite fields is to use cyclotomic classes. Let q be a prime power and \mathbb{F}_q be the finite field of order q. Furthermore, let ω be a fixed primitive element of \mathbb{F}_q and N be a positive integer dividing q-1. For $0 \leq i \leq N-1$ we set $C_i^{(N,q)} = \omega^i C_0$, where C_0 is the subgroup of order (q-1)/N of \mathbb{F}_q^* . Here, \mathbb{F}_q^* denotes the multiplicative group of \mathbb{F}_q . These cosets are called *cyclotomic classes* of order N of \mathbb{F}_q . One may take a union of some cyclotomic classes of order N of \mathbb{F}_q as the connection set of a Cayley graph. Many researchers have studies the problem of determining when a Cayley graph with a union of cyclotomic classes as its connection set forms a strongly regular graph. However, this method has had only limited success. One of the reason why not so many strongly regular graphs have been discovered by this method is the difficulty of evaluating Gauss sums with respect to multiplicative characters of large order. In fact, by the orthogonality of characters, the character values of a union of cyclotomic classes of order N can be represented as sums of linear combinations of Gauss sums with respect to multiplicative characters of exponent N.

Typical cases where the Gauss sums of order N of \mathbb{F}_q have been evaluated are listed below:

- (1) (small order case [4]) $N \leq 24$ (but some of the evaluations are not explicit),
- (2) (semi-primitive case [4]) $-1 \in \langle p \rangle \pmod{N}$,
- (3) (index 2 case [28]) $[\mathbb{Z}_N^{\times}: \langle p \rangle] = 2$, where \mathbb{Z}_N^{\times} is the unit group of \mathbb{Z}_N ,

where p is the characteristic of \mathbb{F}_q . Corresponding to these cases, some constructions of strongly regular Cayley graphs have been given. For example, if N = 2 and $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, $\operatorname{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q, C_0^{(N,q)})$ forms a strongly regular graph, the so-called *Paley graph*. Brouwer, Wilson and Xiang [6] constructed strongly regular Cayley graphs based on cyclotomic classes in semi-primitive case. Recently, Feng and Xiang [12] gave a construction of strongly regular Cayley graphs based on cyclotomic classes in index 2 case. For related results, we refer the reader to [8, 14, 16, 18, 22] and references therein.

On the other hand, strongly regular Cayley graphs on finite fields have been studied in finite geometry. In particular, finite geometric objects, such as *m*-ovoids and *i*-tight sets, can give arise to strongly regular Cayley graphs on the additive group of finite fields [1, 2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25]. In particular, see [1, Section 6] for the relationship between these finite geometric objects and strongly regular graphs. In these studies, instead of evaluating Gauss sums, the character values were directly computed by geometric or group-theoretic arguments. Recently, Bamberg, Lee, Xiang and the author [3] constructed strongly regular Cayley graphs corresponding to $\frac{q+1}{2}$ -ovoids in the elliptic quadric $Q^-(5,q)$, which are also corresponding to a finite geometric object, so-called hemisystems of the Hermitian surface. In particular, the authors used cyclotomic classes of order $4(q^2+q+1)$ of \mathbb{F}_{q^6} combining with a geometric argument. As a more theoretical understanding, Xiang and the author [24] realized that two-valued Gauss periods and a partition of the Singer difference set are behind the construction. Furthermore, the authors showed that the construction can be done in a more general setting within the framework of two-valued Gauss periods.

In this paper, we show that the construction given in [3] can also work within the framework of three-valued Gauss periods. As a consequence, we obtain the following two infinite families of new strongly regular Cayley graphs.

THEOREM 1.1. There exists a strongly regular Cayley graph on $(\mathbb{F}_{q^6}, +)$ with negative Latin square type parameters $(q^6, r(q^3 + 1), q^3 + r^2 - 3r, r^2 - r)$, where $r = M(q^2 - 1)/2$, in the following cases: (i) M = 3 and $q \equiv 7 \pmod{24}$,

(ii)
$$M = 7$$
 and $q \equiv 11, 51 \pmod{56}$.

In the case where M = 1 and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ in the theorem above, we can also obtain strongly regular Cayley graphs, which were already found in [3]. Thus, our construction can be viewed as a generalization of that given in [3].

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give the background on Gauss sums, Gauss periods and Cayley graphs on finite fields. In Section 3, we review known results on three-valued Gauss periods and find two families of three-valued Gauss periods forming an arithmetic progression. In Section 4, we give a construction of Cayley graphs based on three-valued Gauss periods. Furthermore, we give a sufficient condition for the Cayley graph to be strongly regular. In Section 5, we show that some of the three-valued Gauss periods found in Section 3 satisfy the sufficient condition. Then, we obtain our main result. In the final section, we give one sporadic example of a strongly regular Cayley graph on $(\mathbb{F}_{7^{14}}, +)$ not belonging to the two families of strongly regular graphs in Theorem 1.1.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Gauss sums. In this section, we collect basic results on Gauss sums.

For a multiplicative character χ and the canonical additive character $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_q}$ of \mathbb{F}_q , define the Gauss sum by G_{auss}

$$G_q(\chi) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^*} \chi(x) \psi_{\mathbb{F}_q}(x).$$

If χ is of order N, we may say that the Gauss sum is of order N. We will use the following facts without preamble.

- (i) $G_q(\chi)\overline{G_q(\chi)} = q$ if χ is nontrivial;
- (ii) $G_q(\chi^{-1}) = \chi(-1)\overline{G_q(\chi)};$ (iii) $G_q(\chi) = -1$ if χ is trivial.

The Gauss sum with respect to the quadratic character is explicitly computable as follows.

THEOREM 2.1. [17, Theorem 5.15] Let $q = p^{f}$ be a prime power with p a prime and η be the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_q . Then,

(2.1)
$$G_q(\eta) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{f-1}q^{1/2} & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ (-1)^{f-1}i^fq^{1/2} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Also, in semi-primitive case, the Gauss sum is computable.

THEOREM 2.2. ([4, Theorem 11.6.3]) Let p be a prime. Suppose that N > 2 and p is semi-primitive modulo N, i.e., there exists a positive integer j such that $p^{j} \equiv -1$ (mod N). Choose j minimal and write f = 2js for any positive integer r. Let χ be a multiplicative character of order N of \mathbb{F}_{p^f} . Then,

$$p^{-f/2}G_{p^f}(\chi) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{s-1}, & \text{if } p = 2, \\ (-1)^{s-1+(p^j+1)s/N}, & \text{if } p > 2. \end{cases}$$

The following is often referred to as the Davenport-Hasse lifting formula.

THEOREM 2.3. ([4, Theorem 11.5.2]) Let χ' be a nontrivial multiplicative character of \mathbb{F}_q and let χ be the lift of χ' to \mathbb{F}_{q^m} , i.e., $\chi(\alpha) = \chi'(\operatorname{Norm}_{q^m/q}(\alpha))$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$, where $m \geq 2$ is an integer. Then

$$G_{q^m}(\chi) = (-1)^{m-1} (G_q(\chi'))^m.$$

Also, we need the following formula on Gauss sums.

THEOREM 2.4. ([3, Corollary 2.8]) Let $q^m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ be an odd prime power and N be an odd positive integer dividing $(q^m - 1)/(q - 1)$. Let χ'_N be a multiplicative character of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} and χ_N be its lift to $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$. Furthermore, let χ_4 be a multiplicative character of order 4 of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$. Then, it holds that $G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4\chi_N) = G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4^3\chi_N)$. In particular, it holds that

$$G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4\chi_N) = \rho_{q^m} \frac{q^m G_{q^m}(\eta\chi'_N^2)}{G_{q^m}(\eta)},$$

where $\rho_{q^m} = -1$ or 1 depending on whether $q^m \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ or $q^m \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$, and η is the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

In [3], the authors treated only the case where m = 3 of Theorem 2.4. The general case can be proved in a similar way.

2.2. Gauss periods and Cayley graphs on finite fields. The *Gauss periods* of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} are defined by

$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)}) := \sum_{x \in C_i^{(N,q^m)}} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(x), \ 0 \le i \le N-1,$$

where $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}$ is the canonical additive character of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} . By the orthogonality of characters, the Gauss periods of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} can be expressed as a linear combination of Gauss sums of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} :

(2.2)
$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} G_{q^m}(\chi_N^j) \chi_N^{-j}(\omega^i), \ 0 \le i \le N-1,$$

where χ_N is a fixed multiplicative character of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} and ω is a fixed primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

THEOREM 2.5. ([27, Theorem 1]) Let χ be a nontrivial multiplicative character of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} and χ' be its restriction to \mathbb{F}_q . Take a system L of representatives of $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$ such that $\operatorname{Tr}_{q^m/q}$ maps L onto $\{0,1\} \subset \mathbb{F}_q$. Partition L into two parts:

$$L_0 = \{x \in L : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^m/q}(x) = 0\} \text{ and } L_1 = \{x \in L : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^m/q}(x) = 1\},\$$

where $\operatorname{Tr}_{q^m/q}$ is the trace function from \mathbb{F}_{q^m} to \mathbb{F}_q . Then,

$$\sum_{x \in L_1} \chi(x) = \begin{cases} G_{q^m}(\chi)/G_q(\chi'), & \text{if } \chi' \text{ is nontrivial} \\ -G_{q^m}(\chi)/q, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Set $S = \{i \pmod{\frac{q^m-1}{q-1}} : \omega^i \in L_0\}$, that is, the so-called *Singer difference set*. Note that $|S| = (q^{m-1}-1)/(q-1)$. If $N \mid (q^m-1)/(q-1)$, the restriction of a multiplicative character χ_N of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} to \mathbb{F}_q is trivial. In this case, by (2.2) and Theorem 2.5, we have

(2.3)

$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)}) = -\frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} G_{q^m}(\chi_N^j) \chi_N^{-j}(\omega^i)$$

$$= -\frac{q^m - 1}{N(q-1)} + \frac{q}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \sum_{\ell \in S} \chi_N^j(\omega^{\ell-i})$$

Let $\overline{S_N}$ be the reduction of S modulo N. We may identify $\overline{S_N}$ with a group ring element in $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_N]$:

$$\overline{S_N} = c_0[0] + c_1[1] + \dots + c_{N-1}[N-1] \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_N],$$

where $c_i \in \mathbb{Z}, i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1$. Define

$$(2.4) F_N = \{c_i : 0 \leq i \leq N-1\}$$

as an ordinary set, i.e., the set of multiplicities of $x \in \mathbb{Z}_N$ in the multiset $\overline{S_N}$. Furthermore, let

(2.5)
$$I_{\beta} = \{i \in \mathbb{Z}_N : c_i = \beta\}, \ \beta \in F_N.$$

Then,

(2.6)
$$\overline{S_N} = \sum_{\beta \in F_N} \beta I_\beta \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}_N].$$

Continuing from (2.3), we have

(2.7)
$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)}) = -\frac{q^m - 1}{N(q-1)} + q\beta,$$

where $\beta \in F_N$ is determined by $i \in I_\beta$. Thus, the values of Gauss periods of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} are computable from $\overline{S_N}$.

REMARK 2.6. In this paper, we will take a union of cyclotomic classes of order 4N of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$ as a connection set of our strongly regular Cayley graph, where $N \mid (q^m - 1)/(q - 1)$. Therefore, we need to compute a sum of Gauss periods of order 4N of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$. More precisely, if the connection set has the form $D = \bigcup_{i \in I} C_i^{(4N,q^{2m})}$ for some $I \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{4N}$, we need to show that $\sum_{i \in I} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(C_{i+j}^{(4N,q^{2m})}), j = 0, 1, \ldots, 4N - 1$, take exactly two values.

3. Three-valued Gauss periods

3.1. Brief review of three-valued Gauss periods. Schmidt and White [26] studied when Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$, with $N \mid (q^m - 1)/(q - 1)$ take exactly two values in relation to a classification problem of projective two-weight irreducible cyclic code. They found two families and eleven sporadic examples of two-valued Gauss periods. In [3, 23, 24], we constructed strongly regular Cayley graphs based on their results.

As a natural continuation of the study in [26], Feng, Xiang and the author [15] considered Gauss periods which take exactly three rational values, and use them to construct circulant weighing matrices and association schemes. In particular, the authors treated three-valued Gauss periods forming an arithmetic progression.

Let q^m be a prime power and N > 2 be a positive integer dividing $(q^m - 1)/(q - 1)$. Assume that the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)})$, $0 \leq i \leq N-1$, take exactly three values $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$, which form an arithmetic progression, say, $\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = \alpha_2 - \alpha_3 = t > 0$. By (2.7) and the definition (2.4) of F_N , we have

(3.1)
$$F_N = \left\{ (\beta_i :=) \frac{\alpha_i}{q} + \frac{q^m - 1}{qN(q - 1)} : i = 1, 2, 3 \right\}.$$

It is clear that, β_1, β_2 and β_3 also form an arithmetic progression. Write $I_i := I_{\beta_i}$ for simplicity, where I_{β_i} is defined in (2.5). Then, the sizes of I_i 's are determined as follows.

LEMMA 3.1. ([15, Lemma 2.5]) With notation as above, it holds that

$$|I_1| = \frac{N(\alpha_2^2 - \alpha_2 t + k) + 2\alpha_2 - k - t + 1}{2t^2},$$

$$|I_2| = \frac{N(t^2 - \alpha_2^2 - k) - 1 - 2\alpha_2 + k}{t^2},$$

$$|I_3| = \frac{N(\alpha_2^2 + \alpha_2 t + k) + 2\alpha_2 - k + t + 1}{2t^2},$$

where $k := (q^m - 1)/N$.

We now have a simple representation of Gauss sums. Let ω be a primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} and χ be a nontrivial multiplicative character of exponent N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} . Then, by Theorem 2.5 and (2.6),

(3.2)
$$G_{q^m}(\chi) = q \sum_{i \in \overline{S_N}} \chi(\omega^i) = q \sum_{j=1,2,3} \beta_j \sum_{i \in I_j} \chi(\omega^i).$$

Furthermore, by (3.1), the right-hand side of (3.2) is computed as

(3.3)
$$\sum_{j=1,2,3} \alpha_j \sum_{i \in I_j} \chi(\omega^i) = t \left(2 \sum_{i \in I_1} \chi(\omega^i) + \sum_{i \in I_2} \chi(\omega^i) \right).$$

The following two infinite families of three-valued Gauss periods of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} , which form an arithmetic progression, were known [15]:

(3.4) m = 6 and $N = (q^3 - 1)/(q - 1)$,

(3.5) m = 3 and $N = (q^3 - 1)/(3(q - 1))$ with $q \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$.

On the other hand, many other examples not belonging to the two families above were known, see [15, Example 4.4, Table 1].

3.2. Two families of three-valued Gauss periods. In this subsection, we find two families of three-valued Gauss periods forming an arithmetic progression. Let q be a prime power and ω be a primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} . Let M be a positive integer dividing $(q^3 - 1)/(q - 1)$, and set $N = \frac{q^3 - 1}{M(q - 1)}$.

LEMMA 3.2. Assume that $\omega^{j_1N}, \omega^{j_2N}, \omega^{j_3N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q for all distinct $j_1, j_2, j_3 \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}$. Then, the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)}), i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$, take exactly three values -M + 2q, -M + q, -M.

PROOF. Let $\omega^a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^3}^*$. It is impossible that $\operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{jN}) = 0$ for three or more $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}$. In fact, if

$$\operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{j_1N}) = \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{j_2N}) = \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{j_3N}) = 0$$

for some distinct $j_1, j_2, j_3 \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}$, since $\omega^{j_1N}, \omega^{j_2N}, \omega^{j_3N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q , $\operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a x) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^3}$, which is impossible. Hence,

$$\begin{split} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^a C_0^{(N,q^3)}) &= \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{jN}) \mathbb{F}_q^*) \\ &= \begin{cases} -M + 2q, & \text{if } \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{jN}) = 0 \text{ for exactly two } j \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\} \\ -M + q, & \text{if } \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{jN}) = 0 \text{ for exactly one } j \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\} \\ -M, & \text{if } \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^a \omega^{jN}) \neq 0 \text{ for any } j \in \{0, 1, \dots, M-1\}. \end{split}$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

Put $\alpha_1 = -M + 2q$, $\alpha_2 = -M + q$ and $\alpha_3 = -M$. Then, by (3.1), we have $\beta_1 = 2$, $\beta_2 = 1$ and $\beta_3 = 0$. Define

(3.6)
$$I_j := \{i \pmod{N} : 0 \le i \le N - 1, \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)}) = \alpha_j\}, \ j = 1, 2, 3.$$

By Lemma 3.1, we have

$$|I_1| = \frac{M-1}{2}, |I_2| = q - M + 2, |I_3| = \frac{q^2 + q + 1}{M} - q + \frac{M-3}{2}.$$

Furthermore, by (2.6), the reduction of the Singer difference set $S = \{i \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^i) = 0\} \mod N$ is

(3.7)
$$\overline{S_N} = I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_N$$

COROLLARY 3.3. ([15, Section 4.3]) Let $q \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ be a prime power, and set $N = (q^2 + q + 1)/3$. Then, the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$, take exactly three values -3 + 2q, -3 + q, -3.

PROOF. The minimal polynomial of ω^N is of degree 3, and hence $1, \omega^N, \omega^{2N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q . Then, by Lemma 3.2, the conclusion of the corollary follows.

The result above recovers the family (3.5) of known three-valued Gauss periods.

COROLLARY 3.4. Let q be an odd prime power such that $q \equiv 2$ or $4 \pmod{7}$, and set $N = (q^2 + q + 1)/7$. Then, the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$, take exactly three values -7 + 2q, -7 + q, -7.

PROOF. The minimal polynomial of each ω^{jN} , j = 1, 2, ..., 6, is of degree 3, and hence $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{2jN}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q . This also implies that $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{j'N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q , where $j' \equiv 2j \pmod{7}$, since $\omega^{2jN} \mathbb{F}_q^* = \omega^{j'N} \mathbb{F}_q^*$.

We next show that $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{3jN}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q for every $j = 1, 2, \ldots, 6$. If this is shown, similarly to the above, $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{j'N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q , where $j' \equiv 3j \pmod{7}$. Assume that $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{3jN}$ are linearly dependent over \mathbb{F}_q , i.e., there are $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$ such that $\omega^{3jN} + a\omega^{jN} + b = 0$. Then, $f(x) = x^3 + ax + b \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ is the minimal polynomial of ω^{jN} . Since $\omega^{qjN}, \omega^{q^2jN}$ are also roots of f(x), we have $x^3 + ax + b = (x - \omega^{jN})(x - \omega^{qjN})(x - \omega^{q^2jN})$. Comparing the coefficients of x^2 of both sides, we have $\omega^{jN} + \omega^{qjN} + \omega^{q^2jN} = 0$. Depending on whether $q \equiv 2$ or 4 (mod 7), we have $1 + \omega^{j\frac{q^3-1}{7}} + \omega^{3j\frac{q^3-1}{7}} = 0$ or $1 + \omega^{2j\frac{q^3-1}{7}} + \omega^{3j\frac{q^3-1}{7}}$. Since $\omega^{2j\frac{q^3-1}{7}}, \omega^{4j\frac{q^3-1}{7}}$ are also roots of g(x), we have $x^3 + x + 1 = (x - \omega^{j\frac{q^3-1}{7}})(x - \omega^{2j\frac{q^3-1}{7}})(x - \omega^{4j\frac{q^3-1}{7}})$. Comparing the constants of both sides, we have $1 = -\omega^{7j\frac{q^3-1}{7}} = -1$, which is a contradiction. The proof for the case where $q \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$ is similar.

Note that $1, \omega^{jN}, \omega^{j'N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q if and only if so are $\omega^{tN}, \omega^{(j+t)N}$, $\omega^{(j'+t)N}$ for every $t \in \{0, 1, \ldots, 6\}$, where the exponents j+t and j'+t are reduced modulo 7. Then, it is straightforward to check that $\omega^{j_1N}, \omega^{j_2N}, \omega^{j_3N}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q for all distinct $j_1, j_2, j_3 \in \{0, 1, \ldots, 6\}$. Then, by Lemma 3.2, the conclusion of the corollary follows.

REMARK 3.5. We give a comment for the case where q is even in Corollary 3.4 although we need only the case where q is odd in this paper. If q is even, \mathbb{F}_{q^3} contains the subfield of order 8. Then, $\omega^{\frac{q^3-1}{7}} \in \mathbb{F}_8$ is a root of $f(x) = 1 + x^j + x^3 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$ for j = 1 or 2.

This implies that $1, \omega^{Nj_1}, \omega^{Nj_2}$ are linearly dependent over \mathbb{F}_q , where j_1 and j_2 are defined by $j_1 \equiv j(q-1) \pmod{7}$ and $j_2 \equiv 3(q-1) \pmod{7}$, respectively. Therefore, we can not apply Lemma 3.2.

4. Construction of Cayley graphs based on three-valued Gauss periods

In this section, we give a construction of Cayley graphs on $(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}, +)$ based on threevalued Gauss periods of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} . With some suitable partition of the set I_2 , the Cayley graph will become a strongly regular graph.

We begin with an illustrative example of our construction.

EXAMPLE 4.1. Let q = 7 and M = 3. As shown in Corollary 3.3, the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{7^3}}(C_i^{(19,7^3)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, 18$, take exactly three values $\alpha_1 = 11, \alpha_2 = 4$ and $\alpha_3 = -3$. With a suitable primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{7^3} , we have

$$\begin{split} &I_1 = \{0\}, \\ &I_2 = \{8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18\}, \\ &I_3 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17\}. \end{split}$$

Consider the partition $S_1 = \{8, 12, 18\}, S_2 = \{10, 13, 15\}$ of I_2 , and set $S''_i \equiv 4^{-1}S_i \pmod{19}$, i = 1, 2, that is, $S''_1 = \{2, 3, 14\}$ and $S''_2 = \{8, 12, 18\}$. Define

$$Y = \{19i + 4j \pmod{76} : (i, j) \in (\{0, 3\} \times S_1'') \cup (\{1, 2\} \times S_2'')\} \\ \cup \{19i + 4j \pmod{76} : i = 0, 1, 2, 3, j \in 4^{-1}I_1 \pmod{19}\} \\ = \{8, 12, 37, 56, 65, 69, 10, 15, 34, 51, 67, 70, 0, 19, 38, 57\}.$$

Then, with a suitable primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{7^6} , $\operatorname{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{7^6}, \bigcup_{i \in Y} C_i^{(76,7^6)})$ forms a strongly regular graph.

We now give our construction in a general setting. Let $q^m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ be a prime power and ω be a fixed primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} . Furthermore, let N be an odd positive integer dividing $(q^m - 1)/(q - 1)$, and let $C_i^{(N,q^m)} = \omega^i \langle \omega^N \rangle$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1$. In this section, we assume that the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N - 1$, take exactly three rational values $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ forming an arithmetic progression, that is, $(t :=)\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = \alpha_2 - \alpha_3 > 0$. Write

$$I_j := \{ i \pmod{N} \mid \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(C_i^{(N,q^m)}) = \alpha_j \}, \ j = 1, 2, 3.$$

Let S_1, S_2 be a partition of I_2 , and let $S'_i \equiv 2^{-1}S_i \pmod{N}$ and $S''_i \equiv 2^{-1}S'_i \pmod{N}$ for i = 1, 2. Define

(4.1)
$$X := 2S_1'' \cup (2S_2'' + N) \pmod{2N}$$

and

$$Y_X := \{ Ni + 4j \pmod{4N} : (i, j) \in (\{0, 3\} \times S_1'') \cup (\{1, 2\} \times S_2'') \}$$

(4.2)
$$\cup \{Ni + 4j \pmod{4N} : i = 0, 1, 2, 3, j \in 4^{-1}I_1 \pmod{N}\}.$$

Clearly, $X \equiv 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}$ and $Y_X \equiv I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2 \cup I_2 \pmod{N}$ as multisets.

The set D_X given in the following will become the connection set of a strongly regular Cayley graph on $(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}, +)$ for some suitable partition S_1, S_2 of I_2 .

PROPOSITION 4.2. With notation as above, define

$$(4.3) D_X := \bigcup_{i \in Y_X} C_i^{(4N,q^{2m})},$$

where $C_i^{(4N,q^{2m})} = \gamma^i \langle \gamma^{4N} \rangle$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, 4N - 1$, and γ a fixed primitive element of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$ such that $\gamma^{q^{m+1}} = \omega$. For $a \in \mathbb{Z}_{4N}$, define $b \equiv 4^{-1}a \pmod{N}$ and $c \equiv 2b \pmod{2N}$. Then, the nontrivial character values of D_X are given by

$$\begin{split} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(\gamma^{a}D_{X}) &= \frac{\rho_{q^{m}}\delta_{a}q^{m}}{2G_{q^{m}}(\eta)} \left(2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{m}}}(\omega^{c}\bigcup_{\ell\in X}C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^{m})}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{m}}}(\omega^{c}\bigcup_{\ell\in 2^{-1}I_{2}}C_{\ell}^{(N,q^{m})}) \right) \\ (4.4) &+ \frac{(q^{m}-1)(2|I_{1}|+|I_{2}|)}{2N} + \begin{cases} -q^{m}, & \text{if } a\in I_{1} \pmod{N}, \\ -\frac{q^{m}}{2}, & \text{if } a\in I_{2} \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{if } a\in I_{3} \pmod{N}. \end{cases} \end{split}$$

where $\rho_{q^m} = 1 \text{ or } -1 \text{ depending on whether } q^m \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \text{ or } q^m \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$, and δ_a is defined by

$$\delta_a = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4} \text{ and } N \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ & \text{or } a \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{4} \text{ and } N \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ -1, & \text{if } a \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4} \text{ and } N \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ & \text{or } a \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4} \text{ and } N \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, η is the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

We give a proof of Proposition 4.2 below.

Let χ_4 , χ_N and χ_{4N} be multiplicative characters of order 4, N and 4N of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$, respectively. By (2.2), we have

(4.5)
$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(\gamma^a D_X) = \frac{1}{4N} \sum_{h=0}^{4N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi^h_{4N}) \sum_{i \in Y_X} \chi^{-h}_{4N}(\gamma^{a+i}).$$

By the assumption that N is odd, χ_{4N}^h is uniquely expressed as $\chi_4^{h_1}\chi_N^{h_2}$ for some $(h_1, h_2) \in \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_N$. Then, the right hand side of (4.5) is rewritten as

$$\frac{1}{4N} \sum_{h_1=0,1,2,3} \sum_{h_2=0}^{N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4^{h_1}\chi_N^{h_2}) \Big(\sum_{j\in\{0,3\}} \sum_{s\in S_1} \chi_4^{-h_1}(\gamma^{a+Nj})\chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^{a+s})$$

$$(4.6)$$

$$+\sum_{j\in\{1,2\}}\sum_{s\in S_2}\chi_4^{-h_1}(\gamma^{a+Nj})\chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^{a+s}) + \sum_{j\in\{0,1,2,3\}}\sum_{s\in I_1}\chi_4^{-h_1}(\gamma^{a+Nj})\chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^{a+s}))$$

We now compute (4.6) by dividing it into the three partial sums: P_1, P_2 and P_3 , where P_1 is the contribution of the summands with $h_1 = 0$, P_2 is the contribution of the summands with $h_1 = 2$, and P_3 is the contribution of the summands with $h_1 = 1$ or 3. Then,

(4.7)
$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(\gamma^a D) = P_1 + P_2 + P_3.$$

It is clear that $P_2 = 0$ since

$$\sum_{j \in \{0,3\}} \chi_4^{-2}(\gamma^{a+Nj}) = \sum_{j \in \{1,2\}} \chi_4^{-2}(\gamma^{a+Nj}) = \sum_{j \in \{0,1,2,3\}} \chi_4^{-2}(\gamma^{a+Nj}) = 0.$$

We consider the partial sum P_1 .

LEMMA 4.3. It holds that

$$P_{1} = \frac{(q^{m} - 1)(2|I_{1}| + |I_{2}|)}{2N} + \begin{cases} -q^{m}, & \text{if } a \in I_{1} \pmod{N}, \\ -\frac{q^{m}}{2}, & \text{if } a \in I_{2} \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{if } a \in I_{3} \pmod{N}. \end{cases}$$

PROOF. We compute

(4.8)
$$P_1 = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{h_2=0}^{N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_N^{h_2}) \left(\sum_{s \in I_2} \chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^{a+s}) + 2 \sum_{s \in I_1} \chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^{a+s}) \right).$$

Let χ'_N be the multiplicative character of order N of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} such that χ_N is the lift of χ'_N . By (3.2) and (3.3),

$$G_{q^m}(\chi'_N^{-h_2}) = t \sum_{s \in I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2} \chi'_N^{-h_2}(\omega^s) = t \sum_{s \in I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2} \chi_N^{-h_2}(\gamma^s).$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 2.3,

$$G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_N^{h_2}) = -G_{q^m}(\chi_N'^{h_2})^2.$$

Continuing from (4.8), we have

$$P_{1} + \frac{2|I_{1}| + |I_{2}|}{2N} = -\frac{1}{2Nt} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{m}}(\chi_{N}^{\prime h_{2}})^{2} G_{q^{m}}(\chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}) \chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}(\omega^{a})$$

$$= -\frac{q^{m}}{2Nt} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{m}}(\chi_{N}^{\prime h_{2}}) \chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}(\omega^{a})$$

$$= -\frac{q^{m}}{2N} \sum_{h_{2}=0}^{N-1} \sum_{s \in I_{1} \cup I_{1} \cup I_{2}} \chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}(\omega^{-s+a}) + \frac{q^{m}(2|I_{1}| + |I_{2}|)}{2N}$$

$$= \frac{q^{m}(2|I_{1}| + |I_{2}|)}{2N} + \begin{cases} -q^{m}, & \text{if } a \in I_{1} \pmod{N}, \\ -\frac{q^{m}}{2}, & \text{if } a \in I_{2} \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{if } a \in I_{3} \pmod{N}. \end{cases}$$

Then, the conclusion of the lemma follows.

Next, we compute the partial sum P_3 .

LEMMA 4.4. Let $b \equiv 4^{-1}a \pmod{N}$ and $c \equiv 2b \pmod{2N}$. Then, it holds that

(4.9)
$$P_{3} = \frac{\rho_{q^{m}} \delta_{a} q^{m}}{2G_{q^{m}}(\eta)} \left(2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{m}}}(\omega^{c} \bigcup_{\ell \in X} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^{m})}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{m}}}(\omega^{c} \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_{2}} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^{m})}) \right),$$

where ρ_{q^m} and δ_a are defined in Proposition 4.2.

PROOF. It is clear that

$$\sum_{j \in \{0,1,2,3\}} \chi_4^{-h_1}(\gamma^{a+Nj}) = 0, \ h = 1, 3.$$

Hence, we have

(4.10)
$$P_{3} = \frac{1}{4N} \sum_{h_{1}=1,3} \sum_{h_{2}=0}^{N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_{4}^{h_{1}}\chi_{N}^{h_{2}}) \Big(\sum_{j \in \{0,3\}} \sum_{s \in S_{1}} \chi_{4}^{-h_{1}}(\gamma^{a+Nj})\chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s}) + \sum_{j \in \{1,2\}} \sum_{s \in S_{2}} \chi_{4}^{-h_{1}}(\gamma^{a+Nj})\chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s})\Big).$$

Since $G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4 \chi_N^{h_2}) = G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4^3 \chi_N^{h_2})$ by Theorem 2.7, we have

(4.11)
$$P_{3} = \frac{\delta_{a}}{2N} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_{4}\chi_{N}^{h_{2}}) \Big(\sum_{s \in S_{1}} \chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s}) - \sum_{s \in S_{2}} \chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s})\Big) + \frac{\delta_{a}}{2N} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_{4}) (|S_{1}| - |S_{2}|).$$

Since $G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_4) = \rho_{q^m} q^m$ by Theorem 2.2, the term (4.12) is computed as $\delta_a \rho_{q^m} q^m (|S_1| - |S_2|)/2N$.

We compute the right hand side of (4.11). Applying Theorem 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{2m}}(\chi_{4}\chi_{N}^{h_{2}}) \Big(\sum_{s\in S_{1}}\chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s}) - \sum_{s\in S_{2}}\chi_{N}^{-h_{2}}(\gamma^{a+s})) \\ &= \frac{\rho_{q^{m}}q^{m}}{G_{q^{m}}(\eta)} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{m}}(\eta\chi_{N}^{\prime 2h_{2}}) \Big(\sum_{s\in S_{1}}\chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}(\omega^{a+s}) - \sum_{s\in S_{2}}\chi_{N}^{\prime -h_{2}}(\omega^{a+s})) \\ &= \frac{\rho_{q^{m}}q^{m}}{G_{q^{m}}(\eta)} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{m}}(\eta\chi_{N}^{\prime 2h_{2}})\chi_{N}^{\prime -2h_{2}}(\omega^{2b}) \Big(\sum_{s\in S_{1}'}\chi_{N}^{\prime -2h_{2}}(\omega^{s}) - \sum_{s\in S_{2}'}\chi_{N}^{\prime -2h_{2}}(\omega^{s})\Big) \\ &= \frac{\rho_{q^{m}}q^{m}}{G_{q^{m}}(\eta)} \sum_{h_{2}=1}^{N-1} G_{q^{m}}(\eta\chi_{N}^{\prime 2h_{2}}) \sum_{\ell\in X}\eta\chi_{N}^{\prime -2h_{2}}(\omega^{\ell+c}). \end{aligned}$$

By (2.2), we have

$$\sum_{h_2=0}^{N-1} G_{q^m}(\eta {\chi'}_N^{2h_2}) \sum_{\ell \in X} \eta {\chi'}_N^{-2h_2}(\omega^{\ell+c})$$

= $2N\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^m)}) - N\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^m)}).$

Hence, the value of (4.13) is computed as

$$\frac{\rho_{q^m}q^m}{G_{q^m}(\eta)} \left(-G_{q^m}(\eta) \sum_{\ell \in X} \eta(\omega^{\ell+c}) + 2N\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X} C_\ell^{(2N,q^m)}) - N\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_\ell^{(N,q^m)}) \right).$$

Finally, the value of $\sum_{\ell \in X} \eta(\omega^{\ell+c})$ is computed as $|S_1| - |S_2|$. Summing up, the conclusion of the lemma follows.

Now, the conclusion of Proposition 4.2 follows from (4.7) and Lemmas 4.3 and 4.4.

REMARK 4.5. If X defined in (4.1) satisfies that

(4.14)
$$2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^m)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^m)})$$
$$= \begin{cases} \pm G_{q^m}(\eta), & \text{if } c \in 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

substituting (4.14) into (4.4), the set D_X takes exactly two nontrivial character values $(q^m - 1)(2|I_1| + |I_2|)/2N$ and $-q^m + (q^m - 1)(2|I_1| + |I_2|)/2N$. This implies that

Cay($\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}, D_X$) is strongly regular. In particular, it is straightforward to check that it has parameters $(q^{2m}, r(q^m+1), q^m+r^2-3r, r^2-r)$ with $r = (|I_2|+2|I_1|)(q^m-1)/2N$, which is of negative Latin square type.

5. Finding X satisfying the condition of Remark 4.5

5.1. A partition of a conic in PG(2,q). In this subsection, we briefly review a known "good" partition of a conic in PG(2,q) found in [10, 13].

Let q be an odd prime power and ω be a primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} . Viewing \mathbb{F}_{q^3} as a 3-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q , we will use \mathbb{F}_{q^3} as the underlying vector space of $\mathsf{PG}(2,q)$. The points of $\mathsf{PG}(2,q)$ are $\langle \omega^i \rangle := \omega^i \mathbb{F}_q^*$, $0 \leq i \leq N-1$, and the lines of $\mathsf{PG}(2,q)$ are

(5.1)
$$L_c := \{ \langle x \rangle : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^c x) = 0 \},$$

where $0 \leq c < q^2 + q + 1$.

Define a quadratic form $Q : \mathbb{F}_{q^3} \to \mathbb{F}_q$ by $Q(x) := \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(x^2)$. It is straightforward to check that Q is nondegenerate. Therefore, Q defines a conic \mathcal{Q} in $\mathsf{PG}(2,q)$, which contains q+1 points. Consequently each line L of $\mathsf{PG}(2,q)$ meets \mathcal{Q} in 0, 1 or 2 points.

Consider the following subset of \mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1} :

(5.2)
$$W_{\mathcal{Q}} := \{i \,(\text{mod } q^2 + q + 1) : Q(\omega^i) = 0\} = \{d_0, d_1, \dots, d_q\},\$$

where the elements are numbered in any unspecified order. Then,

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{ \langle \omega^{d_i} \rangle : \ 0 \leqslant i \leqslant q \}.$$

Furthermore, $W_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv 2^{-1}S \pmod{q^2 + q + 1}$, where S is the Singer difference set, i.e., $S = \{i \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^i) = 0\}.$

Define $D_1 := \bigcup_{i \in W_Q} C_i^{(q^2+q+1,q^3)}$, where $C_i^{(q^2+q+1,q^3)}$ is represented by $\langle \omega^i \rangle$. Furthermore, define

$$W_s := \{ i \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} : \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2i}) \in C_0^{(2,q)} \}$$

and

$$W_n := \{ i \, (\text{mod } q^2 + q + 1) : \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2i}) \in C_1^{(2,q)} \}.$$

LEMMA 5.1. ([3, Equation (3.5)]) The set D_1 takes exactly three nontrivial character values, that is,

$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c D_1) = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}, \\ -1 + \epsilon q, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} \in W_s, \\ -1 - \epsilon q, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} \in W_n, \end{cases}$$

where $\epsilon \equiv 1$ or -1 depending on whether $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ or $3 \pmod{4}$.

We will consider a partition of D_1 . For $d_0 \in W_Q$, we define

(5.3)
$$\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}} := \{ \omega^{d_i} \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{d_0+d_i}) : 1 \leqslant i \leqslant q \} \cup \{ 2\omega^{d_0} \}$$

and

(5.4)
$$X_{\mathcal{Q}} := \{ \log_{\omega}(x) \pmod{2(q^2 + q + 1)} : x \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}} \}$$

It is clear that $X_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv W_{\mathcal{Q}} \pmod{q^2 + q + 1}$. We give an important property of $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ below.

LEMMA 5.2. ([13, Lemma 3.4]) If we use any other d_i in place of d_0 in the definition of $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}}$, then the resulting set $X'_{\mathcal{Q}}$ satisfies that $X'_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ or $X_{\mathcal{Q}} + (q^2 + q + 1) \pmod{2(q^2 + q + 1)}$. The set $X_{\mathcal{Q}} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)}$ can be expressed as

(5.5)
$$X_{\mathcal{Q}} = 2E_1 \cup (2E_2 + (q^2 + q + 1)) \pmod{2(q^2 + q + 1)}$$

for some $E_1, E_2 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$ with $|E_1| + |E_2| = q + 1$. That is, we are partitioning X_Q into the *even* and *odd* parts. Then, $2(E_1 \cup E_2) \equiv W_Q \pmod{q^2 + q + 1}$ and $4(E_1 \cup E_2) \equiv S \pmod{q^2 + q + 1}$, i.e., X_Q induces partitions of the conic Q and the Singer difference set S, respectively. Consider the following partition of D_1 :

$$D_{1,1} := \bigcup_{i \in X_{\mathcal{Q}}} C_i^{(2(q^2+q+1),q^3)} \text{ and } D_{1,2} := \bigcup_{i \in X_{\mathcal{Q}}+(q^2+q+1)} C_i^{(2(q^2+q+1),q^3)}$$

THEOREM 5.3. ([13, Theorem 3.7, Remark 3.8], [3, Theorem 3.4]) With notation as above, the set $D_{1,1}$ takes exactly four nontrivial character values, that is,

$$\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c D_{1,1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1+\epsilon \eta(2)G_{q^3}(\eta)}{2}, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2+q+1} \in W_{\mathcal{Q}} \\ & \text{and } c \pmod{2(q^2+q+1)} \in X_{\mathcal{Q}}, \\ \frac{-1-\epsilon \eta(2)G_{q^3}(\eta)}{2}, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2+q+1} \in W_{\mathcal{Q}} \\ & \text{and } c \pmod{2(q^2+q+1)} \in X_{\mathcal{Q}} + (q^2+q+1), \\ \frac{-1+\epsilon q}{2}, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2+q+1} \in W_s, \\ \frac{-1-\epsilon q}{2}, & \text{if } c \pmod{q^2+q+1} \in W_n, \end{cases}$$

where η is the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} .

5.2. Quotients of a partition of a conic in PG(2, q). Let q be an odd prime power and M be a positive integer dividing $q^2 + q + 1$, and set $N = \frac{q^2 + q + 1}{M}$. We assume that the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$, take exactly three values -M + 2q, -M + q, -M. In Subsection 3.2, we found two examples of such M, that is, M = 3, 7.

Let $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ be the subset of $\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)}$ defined in (5.5), and let $W_{\mathcal{Q}}$ be the set defined in (5.2). Then, $X_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv W_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv 2^{-1}S \pmod{q^2+q+1}$, where S is the Singer difference set. The reduction of $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ modulo N is the multiset $\overline{S_N} = 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2)$ as seen in (3.7). We are now interested in whether the reduction $\overline{X_{\mathcal{Q}}}$ as a multiset of $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ modulo 2N is "purely" a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} . Here, we say that a multiset defined in a group G is *purely* a subset of G if each element in G appears in the multiset at most once.

Define

(5.6)
$$X_i := \{x \pmod{2N} : x \in X_Q, x \pmod{N} \in 2^{-1}I_i\}, \ i = 1, 2.$$

Then, $X_1 \equiv 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1) \pmod{N}$ and $X_2 \equiv 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}$ as multisets. Furthermore, $\overline{X_Q} = X_1 \cup X_2$. Note that X_2 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} , but X_1 may not be purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} . It is clear that $\overline{X_Q}$ is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} if and only if so is X_1 . The situation is summarized in Figure 1.

LEMMA 5.4. With setting as above, if X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} , it holds that

$$2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X_2} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)})$$

= $2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in \overline{X_Q}} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2)} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)})$

PROOF. We compute

$$A := 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}\left(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in \overline{X_{\mathcal{Q}}}} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}\right) - 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}\left(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X_2} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}\right)$$

FIGURE 1. $W_{\mathcal{Q}}, \overline{X_{\mathcal{Q}}}$ and $2^{-1}\overline{S_N}$ are obtained as the reductions of $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ modulo $q^2 + q + 1, 2N$ and N, respectively. Furthermore, $2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1)$ and $2^{-1}I_2$ are obtained as the reductions of X_1 and X_2 , respectively, modulo N.



Since $\overline{X_{\mathcal{Q}}} = X_1 \cup X_2$, we have

(5.7)
$$A = 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X_1} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}).$$

Since $X_1 \equiv 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1) \pmod{N}$, the assumption of the lemma implies that there is a subset T of X_1 such that

$$X_1 = T \cup (T+N)$$

and

$$T \cap (T+N) = \emptyset.$$

where $T \equiv 2^{-1}I_1 \pmod{N}$. Then, continuing from (5.7),

$$\begin{split} A &= 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in T} (C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)} \cup C_{\ell+N}^{(2N,q^3)})) \\ &= 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_1} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)}) \\ &= \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2)} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)}) \end{split}$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

PROPOSITION 5.5. Under the assumption of Lemma 5.4, it holds that

$$2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X_2} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}I_2} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)}) = \begin{cases} \pm G_{q^3}(\eta), & \text{if } c \in 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

PROOF. By Lemma 5.4, we compute

$$B := 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}\left(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in \overline{X_Q}} C_\ell^{(2N,q^3)}\right) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}\left(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2)} C_\ell^{(N,q^3)}\right).$$

It is clear that

$$B_1 := 2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in \overline{X_Q}} C_{\ell}^{(2N,q^3)}) = 2\sum_{h=0}^{M-1} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^{c+2hN} \bigcup_{\ell \in X_Q} C_{\ell}^{(2(q^2+q+1),q^3)})$$

and

$$B_2 := \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2)} C_{\ell}^{(N,q^3)}) = \sum_{h=0}^{M-1} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^{c+hN} \bigcup_{\ell \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}} C_{\ell}^{(q^2+q+1,q^3)})$$

Then, by Theorem 5.3, we have

$$\begin{split} B_1 &= (-1 + \epsilon \eta(2) G_{q^3}(\eta)) \cdot |X_{\mathcal{Q}} \cap (2N\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)} + c)| \\ &+ (-1 - \epsilon \eta(2) G_{q^3}(\eta)) \cdot |(X_{\mathcal{Q}} + (q^2 + q + 1)) \cap (2N\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)} + c)| \\ &+ (-1 + \epsilon q) \cdot |W_s \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1} + c)| + (-1 - \epsilon q) \cdot |W_n \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1} + c)|. \end{split}$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 5.1, we have

$$B_{2} = -|W_{\mathcal{Q}} \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^{2}+q+1}+c)| + (-1+\epsilon q) \cdot |W_{s} \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^{2}+q+1}+c)| + (-1-\epsilon q) \cdot |W_{n} \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^{2}+q+1}+c)|.$$

Write

$$x_0 := |X_{\mathcal{Q}} \cap (2N\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)} + c)|,$$

$$x_1 := |(X_{\mathcal{Q}} + (q^2+q+1)) \cap (2N\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)} + c)|.$$

Since $x_0 + x_1 = |W_{\mathcal{Q}} \cap (N\mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1} + c)|$, we have

(5.8)
$$B = B_1 - B_2 = \epsilon \eta(2) G_{q^3}(\eta) (x_0 - x_1),$$

By the assumption that X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} , the reduction of $X_{\mathcal{Q}}$ modulo 2N, that is, $\overline{X_{\mathcal{Q}}}$, is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} . Hence, $x_0, x_1 \in \{0, 1\}$. In particular,

$$(x_0, x_1) = (1, 1) \Leftrightarrow c \in 2^{-1}I_1 \pmod{N},$$

$$(x_0, x_1) = (0, 1), (1, 0) \Leftrightarrow c \in 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N},$$

$$(x_0, x_1) = (0, 0) \Leftrightarrow c \in 2^{-1}I_3 \pmod{N}.$$

Hence, continuing from (5.8), we have

$$B = \begin{cases} \pm G_{q^3}(\eta), & \text{if } c \in 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

REMARK 5.6. Note that X_2 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} and satisfies that $X_2 \equiv 2^{-1}I_2 \pmod{N}$. Then, Proposition 5.5 implies that if X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} , the set X_2 satisfies the condition (4.14) of Remark 4.5 with m = 3 and $X = X_2$.

5.3. Sufficient conditions for X_1 to be purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} . As shown in Subsection 3.2, if $N = (q^2 + q + 1)/M$ with M = 3 or 7, the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{(N,q^3)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1$, take exactly three values -M + 2q, -M + q, -M. In order to apply Remark 5.6, we need to investigate when X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} . The following is our main result of this subsection.

Result 5.7.

- (i) Let q be a prime power such that $q \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, and let M = 3. If $q \equiv 7$ or $13 \pmod{24}$, then X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} .
- (ii) Let q be a prime power such that $q \equiv 2$ or $4 \pmod{7}$, and let M = 7. If $q \equiv 11, 37, 51$ or $53 \pmod{56}$, then X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} .

Assume that $u \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}$ and $u \pmod{N} \in 2^{-1}I_1$. Since $W_{\mathcal{Q}} \equiv 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2) \pmod{N}$, there is exactly one $\ell_u \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M-1\}$ such that $u + \ell_u N$ is also in $W_{\mathcal{Q}}$. By the definition (5.2) of $W_{\mathcal{Q}}$, we have $\operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2u}) = \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2u+2\ell_u N}) = 0$. From these equations, we have

(5.9)
$$\omega^{2uq^2} = -(\omega^{2u} + \omega^{2uq}),$$

(5.10)
$$\omega^{2uq} = -\frac{\omega^{2u - \frac{2\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{M}} (1 - \omega^{\frac{2(q+1)\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{M}})}{1 - \omega^{\frac{2q\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{M}}}$$

Define

$$g_M(\omega^u) = \operatorname{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2u+\ell_u N})\omega^{\ell_u N}$$

for $u \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}$ such that $u \pmod{N} \in 2^{-1}I_1$. By the definition (5.3) of $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}}$ and Lemma 5.2, we can assume that $2\omega^u, g_M(\omega^u)\omega^u \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}}$ or $2\omega^{u+(q^2+q+1)}, g_M(\omega^u)\omega^{u+(q^2+q+1)} \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{Q}}$. Thus, X_1 is purely a subset of \mathbb{Z}_{2N} if and only if $\eta(2) \neq \eta(g_M(\omega^u))$ for all $u \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}$ such that $u \pmod{N} \in 2^{-1}I_1$, where η is the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} .

LEMMA 5.8. With notation as above, it holds that

$$\eta(g_M(\omega^u)) = \eta(-1)\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q+1)(q^3-1)}{M}})\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u(q^3-1)}{M}}).$$

PROOF. By the definition of $g_M(\omega^u)$ and the condition (5.9), we have

(5.11)
$$g_M(\omega^u) = \omega^{2\ell_u N} (\omega^{2u} + \omega^{2uq + \frac{\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{M}} + \omega^{2uq^2 + \frac{\ell_u(q + 1)(q^3 - 1)}{M}}) \\ = \omega^{2\ell_u N} (\omega^{2u} (1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q + 1)(q^3 - 1)}{M}}) + \omega^{2uq + \frac{\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{M}} (1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u q(q^3 - 1)}{M}})).$$

By substituting (5.10) into (5.11), we have

(5.12)
$$(5.11) = -\omega^{2\ell_u N} \omega^{2u - \frac{\ell_u (q^3 - 1)}{M}} \frac{(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u (q^3 - 1)}{M}})(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u (q + 1)(q^3 - 1)}{M}})(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u q(q^3 - 1)}{M}})}{1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u q(q^3 - 1)}{M}}}.$$

Since $\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q^3-1)}{M}}) = \eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_uq(q^3-1)}{M}})$, we have

$$\eta(g_M(\omega^u)) = \eta(-1)\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q+1)(q^3-1)}{M}})\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_uq(q^3-1)}{M}}).$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

PROPOSITION 5.9. Let $q \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ be a prime power and η be the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} . Then, it holds that

$$\eta(g_3(\omega^u)) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{12}, \\ -1, & \text{if } q \equiv 7 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

PROOF. By Lemma 5.8, we have

$$\eta(g_3(\omega^u)) = \eta(-1)\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{3}})\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u(q^3 - 1)}{3}})$$
$$= \eta(-1) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{12}, \\ -1, & \text{if } q \equiv 7 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

This completes the proof of the proposition.

By the supplementary low of the quadratic reciprocity, $\eta(2) \neq \eta(g_3(\omega^u))$ if and only if $q \equiv 7$ or 13 (mod 24). Thus, we obtain Result 5.7 (i).

PROPOSITION 5.10. Let q be a prime power such that $q \equiv 9$ or 11 (mod 14) and η be the quadratic character of \mathbb{F}_{q^3} . Then, it holds that

$$\eta(g_7(\omega^u)) = 1.$$

PROOF. By Lemma 5.8, we have

(5.13)
$$\eta(g_7(\omega^u)) = \eta(-1)\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q+1)(q^3-1)}{7}})\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_uq(q^3-1)}{7}}).$$

We consider the right hand side of (5.13) in two cases: (i) $q \equiv 9 \pmod{14}$; and (ii) $q \equiv 11 \pmod{14}$.

(i) In the case where $q \equiv 9 \pmod{14}$, we have $1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q+1)(q^3-1)}{7}} = 1 - \omega^{\frac{3\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}$ and $1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u q(q^3-1)}{7}} = -\omega^{\frac{4\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}(1 - \omega^{\frac{3\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}})$. Then, continuing from (5.13), we obtain $\eta(g_7(\omega^u)) = 1$.

(ii) In the case where $q \equiv 11 \pmod{14}$, we have $1 - \omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q+1)(q^3-1)}{7}} = 1 - \omega^{\frac{5\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}$ and $1 - \omega^{\frac{2\ell_u q(q^3-1)}{7}} = -\omega^{\frac{\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}(1 - \omega^{\frac{6\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}})$. Since $\eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{6\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}) = \eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{6q^2\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}) = \eta(1 - \omega^{\frac{5\ell_u(q^3-1)}{7}}),$

continuing from (5.13), we obtain $\eta(g_7(\omega^u)) = 1$.

By the supplementary low of the quadratic reciprocity, $\eta(2) = -1$ if and only if $q \equiv 3$ or 5 (mod 8). Thus, we obtain Result 5.7 (ii).

Finally, by applying Proposition 5.5, Remarks 4.5 and 5.6 to Result 5.7 (i) and (ii) with the restriction $q^m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, the conclusions of Theorem 1.1 (i) and (ii) follow, respectively.

6. Discussion

In this paper, we found two infinite families of strongly regular Cayley graphs on $(\mathbb{F}_{q^6}, +)$ based on three-valued Gauss periods. In this section, we first explain how our study is related to a previous one. We observe that Proposition 4.2 and Remark 4.5 still hold even in the case where $I_1 = \emptyset$; in this case, the Gauss periods take exactly two values α_2 and α_3 . For example, if $N = q^2 + q + 1$ and m = 3, we have $I_1 = \emptyset, I_2 = S, I_3 = \mathbb{Z}_N \setminus S$, where S is the Singer difference set. Furthermore, by Lemma 5.1 and Theorem 5.3, X_Q satisfies that

$$2\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in X_{\mathcal{Q}}} C_{\ell}^{(2(q^2+q+1),q^3)}) - \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^c \bigcup_{\ell \in W_{\mathcal{Q}}} C_{\ell}^{(q^2+q+1,q^3)}) = \begin{cases} \pm G_{q^3}(\eta), & \text{if } c \in W_{\mathcal{Q}} \pmod{q^2+q+1}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$

where $W_{\mathcal{Q}} = 2^{-1}I_2$. Hence, by Proposition 4.2 and Remark 4.5, we can claim that $\operatorname{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q^6}, D_{X_{\mathcal{Q}}})$ forms a strongly regular graph having parameters $(q^6, r(q^3 + 1), q^3 + r^2 - 3r, r^2 - r)$ with $r = (q^2 - 1)/2$, where D_X is defined in (4.3). This family of strongly regular graphs was already found in [3]. Thus, our construction is a generalization of that given in [3]. Furthermore, for X_2 defined in (5.6), it is clear that Y_{X_2} is obtained as the reduction of $Y_{X_{\mathcal{Q}}}$ modulo 4N, where Y_X is defined in (4.2). Thus, our strongly regular Cayley graphs can be viewed as "quotients" of those found in [3].

On the other hand, we found one sporadic example of a strongly regular Cayley graph based on Proposition 4.2, which is not within the framework above. The Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{7^7}}(C_i^{(29,7^7)})$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, 28$, take exactly three values $\alpha_1 = 272, \alpha_2 = -71, \alpha_3 =$ -414 [15, Table1]. With a suitable primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{7^7} , we have

$$I_1 = \{8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 26, 27\},$$

$$I_2 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28\},$$

$$I_3 = \{0\}.$$

Define $S_1 := I_2$ and $S_2 := \emptyset$, which partition the set I_2 . We checked by computer that the set $X \equiv 2S_1'' \cup (2S_2'' + 29) \pmod{58}$ satisfies the condition (4.14) of Remark 4.5, where $S_i'' \equiv 4^{-1}S_i \pmod{29}$, i = 1, 2. Then, by Proposition 4.2 and Remark 4.5, $\operatorname{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{7^{14}}, D_X)$ is a strongly regular graph having parameters $(7^{14}, r(7^7 + 1), 7^7 + r^2 - 3r, r^2 - r)$ with $r = 35(7^7 - 1)/58$.

We conclude this paper by giving two open problems for future work. Although many examples of (q^m, N) which lead to three-valued Gauss periods have been found by computer in [15, Table1], only a few of them were theoretically explained in Subsection 3.2 of this paper. In particular, only the case where m = 3 and $N = (q^2 + q + 1)/M$ with M = 7 was newly characterized. Hence, we give the following problem.

PROBLEM 6.1. Characterize all pairs (q, M) such that the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{((q^2+q+1)/M,q^3)}), i = 0, 1, \ldots, (q^2+q+1)/M-1$, take exactly three values -M + 2q, -M + q, -M.

Furthermore, in view of Proposition 5.5 and Remark 4.5, we give the following problem.

PROBLEM 6.2. Under the assumption that the Gauss periods $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(C_i^{((q^2+q+1)/M,q^3)}),$ $i = 0, 1, \ldots, (q^2+q+1)/M-1$, take exactly three values -M+2q, -M+q, -M, determine when the reduction of X_Q modulo $2(q^2+q+1)/M$ is purely a subset of $\mathbb{Z}_{2(q^2+q+1)/M}$.

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