Combinatorics via Closed Orbits: Number Theoretic Ramanujan Graphs are not Unique Neighbor Expanders

Amitay Kamber * Tali Kaufman †

April 1, 2022

Abstract

The question of finding expander graphs with strong vertex expansion properties such as unique neighbor expansion and lossless expansion is central to computer science. A barrier to constructing these is that strong notions of expansion could not be proven via the spectral expansion paradigm.

A very symmetric and structured family of optimal spectral expanders (i.e., Ramanujan graphs) was constructed using number theory by Lubotzky, Phillips and Sarnak, and was subsequently generalized by others. We call such graphs Number Theoretic Ramanujan Graphs. These graphs are not only spectrally optimal, but also posses strong symmetries and rich structure. Thus, it has been widely conjectured that number theoretic Ramanujan graphs are lossless expanders, or at least unique neighbor expanders.

In this work we disprove this conjecture, by showing that there are number theoretic Ramanujan graphs that are not even unique neighbor expanders. This is done by introducing a new combinatorial paradigm that we term the closed orbit method.

The closed orbit method allows one to construct finite combinatorial objects with extermal substructures. This is done by observing that there exist *infinite* combinatorial structures with extermal substructures, coming from an action of a subgroup of the automorphism group of the structure. The crux of our idea is a systematic way to construct a finite quotient of the infinite structure containing a *simple* shadow of the infinite substructure, which maintains its extermal combinatorial property.

Other applications of the method are to the edge expansion of number theoretic Ramanujan graphs and vertex expansion of Ramanujan complexes. Finally, in the field of graph quantum ergodicity we produce number theoretic Ramanujan graphs with an eigenfunction of small support that corresponds to the zero eigenvalue. This again contradicts common expectations.

The closed orbit method is based on the well-established idea from dynamics and number theory of studying closed orbits of subgroups. The novelty of this work is in exploiting this idea to combinatorial questions, and we hope that it will have other applications in the future.

1 Introduction

On Ramanujan graphs, and Number Theoretic Ramanujan graphs. Various combinatorial questions are studied using sparse graphs. Their solution is often based on a spectral analysis of the

^{*}Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0WB, UK. email: ak2356@dpmms.cam.ac.uk. Research supported by ERC under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 803711)

[†]Department of Computer Science, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 5290002, Israel, email: kaufmant@mit.edu, research supported by ERC.

underlying graph, and in particular on the fact that the given graph is a good expander, meaning that the second eigenvalue of its adjacency matrix is very far from its first eigenvalue ([8]). The strongest spectral expansion condition is the Ramanujan property, which says that the second largest non-trivial eigenvalue in absolute value of the adjacency operator of a d-regular graph is bounded by $2\sqrt{d-1}$.

An explicit family of Ramanujan graphs, which we call *LPS graphs*, was constructed in the celebrated work of Lubotzky, Phillips, and Sarnak ([16]). This construction is based on number theory and in particular on the theory of automorphic forms, using deep results of Deligne and others. There are various possible variations on the construction (e.g., [19, 24]), including the much earlier work of Ihara ([9]). We will focus on the work of Morgenstern ([22]), who gave another such explicit family which we call *Morgenstern graphs* (the essential difference between the two works is replacing the field \mathbb{Q} by $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$, where \mathbb{F}_q is the finite field with q elements). We call the graphs resulting from the different variations number theoretic graphs, to distinguish them from other constructions of Ramanujan graphs (e.g., the graphs constructed by [18]). The number theoretic Ramanujan graphs have various other wonderful properties – for example, they are Cayley Graphs and have a very large girth (i.e., the length of the shortest cycle is large).

1.1 Vertex Expansion and the Spectral Method

There are some notoriously hard combinatorial questions about graphs where the spectral theory falls short of proving the desired answer. A notable example is the question of finding a family of explicit d-regular graphs which are lossless-expanders. For X a d-regular graph, and a subset Y of the vertices of X, we define the expansion ratio of Y as $\frac{|N(Y)|}{|Y|}$, where N(Y) is the set of neighboring vertices of the set Y, which may include vertices from Y itself. This ratio is obviously bounded by d. For d large but fixed as the size of the graph grows to infinity, we say that a family of graphs is a family of lossless expanders if there is a constant $\alpha > 0$ such that for every set $Y \subset X$ of size $|Y| \leq \alpha |X|$, its expansion ratio is d - o(d). There are constructions of graphs satisfying weaker notions ([5, 1]), but even going beyond expansion ratio d/2 is a major open question ([8]).

The best results using the spectral method are due to Kahale ([10]). He shows that for a Ramanujan graph the expansion ratio of sets of size bounded by $\alpha|X|$ is at least $d/2 - \beta$, where $\beta \to 0$ as $\alpha \to 0$ (see Theorem 5.6 for an alternative proof). Kahale also constructs a family of graphs which are almost-Ramanujan, in the sense that their second largest eigenvalue in absolute value is bounded by $2\sqrt{d-1} + o(1)$, having a subset Y of two vertices which has expansion ratio d/2. In particular, he shows that the best expansion ratio that it is possible to get solely by using spectral arguments cannot exceed d/2 for linear sized sets.

One of the reasons that passing the d/2 barrier is important is that graphs with vertex expansion greater than d/2 are also unique neighbor expanders, for if a set Y has an expansion ratio that is greater than d/2, then there exists a vertex that has a unique neighbor in Y. Unique neighbor expanders were constructed by Alon and Capalbo ([1]), but the resulting graphs are not lossless expanders. A weaker desired property is odd neighbor expansion, which says that there is a vertex that is connected to an odd number of elements in Y. We refer to [8] for a discussion of vertex expansion and its applications from different points of view.

Kahale's example has a short cycle of length 4. It is also very far from being a Cayley graph. For graphs with large girth, Kahale actually proved that small sets have expansion ratio d - o(d) (see also [20]). For the LPS graphs or Morgenstern graphs, which are the d-regular graph that have the best known girth, this implies that sets of size smaller than $|X|^{1/3-\epsilon}$ have expansion ratio close to d.

The fact that Kahale's construction does not share many of the wonderful properties of the

number theoretic construction led various researchers to speculate that Ramanujan number theoretic graphs, which have very large girth, should be lossless expanders, or at least graphs with vertex expansion strictly greater than d/2.

We show that this common belief is not true. As a matter of fact, some Morgenstern Ramanujan graphs are not even *odd neighbor expanders*, and therefore not *unique neighbor expanders*. Here is one of our main theorems:

Theorem 1.1 (Number theoretic Ramanujan graphs that are not odd neighbor expanders). For every prime power q, there exists an infinite family of (q+1)-regular number theoretic Ramanujan graphs X, and a subset $Y \subset X$, $|Y| = O(\sqrt{|X|})$, such that every $x \in N(Y)$ has precisely 2 neighbors in Y. Therefore, Y has no unique neighbors and $|N(Y)| = \frac{q+1}{2}|Y|$.

Explicitly, for every odd prime power q and m large enough, there exists a (q + 1)-regular bipartite Morgenstern Ramanujan graph

$$X = \text{Cayley} \left(\text{PGL}_2 \left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} \right), \left\{ \gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1} \right\} \right),$$

with generators $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$, such that the subgroup $\langle \gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2 \rangle$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$. Moreover, the graph

$$Y = \text{Cayley}(\langle \gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2 \rangle, \{\gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2 \})$$

is also a (q+1)-regular bipartite Morgenstern Ramanujan graph.

The subset $Y \subset X$ is of size $|Y| = O(\sqrt{|X|})$, and every $x \in N(Y)$ has precisely 2 neighbors in Y.

The theorem is based on a new idea we introduce to Combinatorics called the closed orbit method, which is based on working with the simply connected covering object, a topic we explain in the next subsection of this long introduction. In Subsection 1.3 we describe how the general method applies to the vertex expansion question. We also discuss vertex expansion in Ramanujan complexes. In Subsection 1.4 we discuss the problem of edge expansion in Ramanujan graphs and how our method addresses it. In Subsection 1.5 we describe the surprising application of our method to the field of quantum ergodicity of graphs, where we show in Theorem 1.9 the existence of a concentrated eigenfunction of the adjacency operator, again contradicting a natural belief that such eigenfunctions do not exist for number theoretic graphs. In Subsection 1.6 we explain the closed orbit machinery in more detail, from a group theoretic point of view, and present our main abstract result, Theorem 1.10. Finally, in Subsection 1.7 we discuss the inverse situation in which closed orbits do not exist. We pose the conjecture that the non-existence of closed orbits implies lossless expansion of number theoretic graphs.

1.2 Combinatorics via the Covering object

In our work, we study finite d-regular graphs by understanding new properties that they inherit from their infinite simply-connected cover, the d-regular tree T_d , together with the action of some group G on it. We will usually call T_d by B_G below, since we think of it with the G-action. The infinite covering object is already evident in the definition of a Ramanujan graph – it is a finite d-regular graph that inherits the spectrum of its covering object. Namely, the graph's non-trivial spectrum is contained in the spectrum of T_d .

The action of the group G on T_d is more subtle, but it underlies the number theoretic constructions of Ramanujan graphs. For example, the LPS construction ([16]) is based on the action of the p-adic group $G = \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_q)$ (\mathbb{Q}_q is the q-adic field) on its $\operatorname{Bruhat-Tits}$ tree $B_G = T_{q+1}$. Using number theory which is related to quaternion algebras, it is possible to construct an $\operatorname{arithmetic}$ lattice Γ in

G such that by taking the quotient of T_{q+1} by Γ we get a (q+1)-regular graph which inherits the spectrum of the infinite tree, namely, a graph with the Ramanujan property.

In our work, we focus on the action of a subgroup $H \leq G$ on B_G . An orbit of the H-action on B_G gives a substructure $Z \subset B_G$ with various desired properties. This substructure Z is used to solve some combinatorial questions for the infinite cover.

We then look at the projection of Z into the finite quotient graph X. We want to understand the image $Y \subset X$ of the map, as it inherits the properties of Z. Usually, this map is very complicated, and in particular, its image Y is the entire finite graph X. However, using the *closed orbit method* that we introduce in this work, we show that there are special situations when this map is simple, and in particular, its image Y may be small relative to X.

As we explain in Subsection 1.6, the special situations happen if the orbit $\Gamma \backslash H$ in the compact space $\Gamma \backslash G$ is closed, hence the name of the method¹. The notion of a *closed orbit* is basic in ergodic theory, and has many uses in homogeneous dynamics, number theory, and representation theory. The novelty of our work is exploiting this well-known notion to get a new understanding of finite combinatorial questions.

All the above seems quite abstract, so let us now explain how we apply it to the problem of vertex expansion. This will require a more technical discussion.

1.3 Vertex Expansion and the Closed Orbit Method

Using subgroups to find an infinite subgraph with bad vertex expansion. Consider the field $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ of Laurent series over the finite field \mathbb{F}_q with q elements (q being a prime power). This field is analogous to the q-adic field \mathbb{Q}_q when \mathbb{Q} is replaced by the field $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$. As with the group $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_q)$, the group $G = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ acts naturally on a (q+1)-regular Bruhat-Tits tree B_G . Notice that in this case, there is a subfield $\mathbb{F}_q((t^2)) \subset \mathbb{F}_q((t))$. This subfield gives rise to a subgroup $H = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2))) \leq G$. Notice that the groups G and H are isomorphic, so H acts on its own (q+1)-regular Bruhat-Tits tree B_H .

Next, consider the H-action on B_G , via the embedding of H in G. An orbit of H gives rise to an embedding of the vertices of the (q+1)-regular tree B_H in B_G (see Figure 1.1 and the discussion in Subsection 4.2). The embedding can also be described as an embedding of the (q+1,2)-biregular subdivision graph of B_H in the (q+1)-regular tree B_G .

Notice that the image of the embedding is very thin, in the sense that a large ball in B_G with n vertices will contain $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$ vertices of B_H . The following lemma says that the embedded set has bad expansion properties.

Lemma 1.2 (Lemma 4.2). Let $Z \subset B_G$ be the embedding of the vertices of B_H in B_G . Then each vertex $v \in N(Z)$ is a neighbor of precisely two vertices of Z.

Using the closed orbit method to get a finite set with bad vertex expansion. Once we demonstrated the non-expanding set $Z \subset B_G$ in the infinite world, we may take a quotient of B_G by a lattice, and look at the image Y of Z in the resulting finite graph.

Since every neighbor of Z is connected to Z by at least two edges, the same is true for its image $Y \subset X$. Therefore, Y has no unique neighbors, which is the property we are looking for. However, Y may contain a lot of vertices, and even the whole of the graph X. The closed orbit method allows

¹More generally, we are actually interested in a *periodic orbit*, which is an H-orbit supporting a finite H-invariant measure. When $\Gamma \backslash G$ is compact, which is the case of interest to combinatorics, both notions are equivalent, and we think that the closed orbit method simply sounds better.

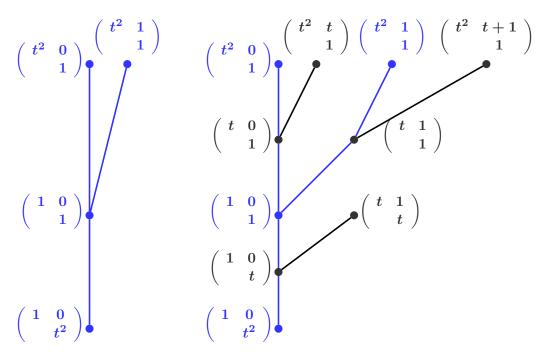


Figure 1.1: Part of the tree of $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_2\left(\left(t^2\right)\right)\right)$ (left) embedded in part of the tree of $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_2\left(\left(t^2\right)\right)\right)$ (right). See Subsection 4.2 for the meaning of the vertex labels.

us to find an arithmetic quotient where Y maintains its volume in the tree. Namely, we have the following:

Lemma 1.3 (Special case of Theorem 1.10). It is possible to choose a family of arithmetic lattices $\Gamma \leq G$, such that the projection Y of the set Z into the finite graph $X = \Gamma \backslash B_G$ is of size $|Y| = O(\sqrt{|X|})$.

Most of the non-explicit part of Theorem 1.1 follows from Lemma 1.3 and the discussion above. The discussion implies that every vertex $x \in N(Y)$ is connected by at least two edges to Y. The fact that x has precisely two neighbors in Y follows from a symmetry trick we explain in Lemma 2.8. This implies that there are number theoretic Ramanujan graphs that are not even odd neighbor expanders.

In the following, we apply the closed orbit method to the Morgenstern Ramanujan graphs ([22]). This will give *explicit* number theoretic graphs with bad vertex expansion, and the explicit part of Theorem 1.1.

Morgenstern graphs: Explicit number theoretic graphs that are not lossless expanders. Let us describe how the above can be applied to the construction of Ramanujan graphs by Morgenstern ([22]), for q an odd prime power. Morgenstern constructs a lattice $\Gamma \leq \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(t))$ that acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits tree B_G , with generators $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$. If Γ_n is a normal subgroup of Γ , the graph $\Gamma_n \backslash B_G$ is then naturally isomorphic to the Cayley graph $X = \operatorname{Cayley}(\Gamma / \Gamma_n, \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\})$.

When Γ_n is chosen by some explicit congruence conditions we get the Morgenstern graphs, which have plenty of nice properties, described in [22, Theorem 4.13], and are very similar to the celebrated LPS graphs ([16, 13]). In particular, Γ/Γ_n is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$, the graphs are Ramanujan graphs, and their girth is at least $4/3\log_q(|X|)$.

The general method applies as follows: It turns out that after a "change of variables", for $H = \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2)))$, the subgroup $\Gamma \cap H$ is generated by $\delta_1 = \gamma_1^2, \ldots, \delta_{q+1} = \gamma_{q+1}^2$ and is actually also a Morgenstern lattice of H, which acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits tree B_H . After some computations, we end up with the explicit part of Theorem 1.1.

Lossless expansion for Ramanujan complexes. A promising option for graphs with good vertex expansion are the underlying graphs of the Ramanujan complexes constructed in [17, 12] (see Subsection 4.2 for some discussion of Ramanujan complexes).

Unlike d-regular graphs, higher dimensional Ramanujan complexes have a rigid local structure, which implies interesting combinatorial properties. For example, many recent works used the Garland method to show that they are *high dimensional expanders* (see [15] and the references therein). Therefore, one may speculate that the rigid local structure will imply some form of lossless expansion.

However, we show that the underlying graph on the vertices of the complex can have bad vertex expansion:

Theorem 1.4 (Skeleton graphs of Ramanujan complexes are not unique neighbor expanders). Let n be prime, q a prime power, $G = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ and B_G be the Bruhat-Tits building of G. Then there is an infinite family of Ramanujan quotients $\Gamma \backslash B_G$ such that its underlying graph X has a subset Y of size $|Y| = O(|X|^{1/2})$, with no unique neighbors.

The proof of Theorem 1.4 is based on applying the closed orbit method to $H = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2))) \le G = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$. The basic observation is the following lemma:

Lemma 1.5 (Lemma 4.2). The embedding Z of the vertices of the building of B_H in the vertices of the building of B_G have no unique neighbors.

The lemma implies that the projection $Y \subset X$ of $Z \subset B_G$ will also have no unique neighbors. However, it does not have to be small. The closed orbit method allows us to find lattices such that the image Y satisfies $|Y| = O(\sqrt{|X|})$.

1.4 Bad Edge Expansion for Number Theoretic Graphs

The results about vertex expansion we described above have an analog for edge expansion. The edge expansion of a set $S \subset X$ is the ratio $\frac{M(S,X-S)}{|S|}$, where M(S,X-S) is the number of edges between S and its complement in X. Another way of studying this ratio is by looking at the number M(S,S) of internal edges in S, as M(S,X-S)+M(S,S)=d|S|. Finally, $\frac{M(S,S)}{|S|}$ is simply the average degree of the induced graph on S, which is the property we will actually study.

A graph is a good edge expander if the average induced degree for every small set S is small. The best result about the connection between spectral gap and edge expansion is given in the following result of Kahale:

Theorem 1.6 (Kahale ([10]), see also Theorem 5.5). Let X be a $(q^2 + 1)$ -regular Ramanujan graph, with $|X| \to \infty$. Then for every subset $Y \subset X$ with |Y| = o(|X|), the average degree of the induced graph on Y is bounded by $\sqrt{q} + 1 + o(1)$.

As with vertex expansion, we can prove that there exist number theoretic graphs with as bad edge expansion as allowed by Kahale's result:

Theorem 1.7 (Kahale's spectral bound for edge expansion is tight). For every prime power q, there exists an infinite family of $(q^2 + 1)$ -regular number theoretic Ramanujan graphs X, and a (q+1)-regular induced subgraph $Y \subset X$, $|Y| = O\left(\sqrt{|X|}\right)$.

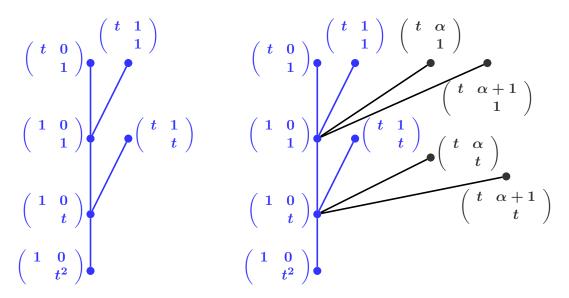


Figure 1.2: Part of the tree of $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_2((t)))$ (left) embedded in part of the tree of $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_4((t)))$ (right). We denote $\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, \alpha, \alpha + 1\}$.

The proof of this theorem is based on applying the general construction to $G = \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}((t)))$ and $H = \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$. This gives as embedding Z of B_H in B_G . The basic property of this embedding is described in Figure 1.2 and the following Lemma:

Lemma 1.8. Every vertex of Z is connected to q+1 other vertices of Z.

When projected to a finite quotient, the image Y of Z still has an induced degree of at least q+1. The closed orbit method allows us to find an arithmetic lattice such that this projection is small.

1.5 Concentrated eigenfunctions of number theoretic graphs

The closed orbit machinery could be useful beyond the specific question of expansion. Indeed, we use this idea to construct an eigenfunction with eigenvalue 0, which has small support, in a number theoretic graph.

There is a lot of recent work, initiated by Brooks and Lindenstrauss ([4]), whose aim is to understand eigenfunctions of the adjacency operator on (q+1)-regular graphs. Similar to the setting of vertex expansion, eigenfunctions on a (q+1)-regular graph with girth at least $\beta \log_q n$ have support of size at least $\Theta\left(n^{\frac{\beta}{4}}\right)$ (see [7, Subsection 1.1]). Therefore, the support of eigenfunctions on the graphs X of Theorem 1.1 is of size at least $n^{1/3-o(1)}$. More generally, Brooks and Lindenstrauss ([4]) proved that for a (q+1)-regular graph X with girth $\beta \log_q n$, for every $\epsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ such that if a set Y supports ϵ of the mass of an eigenfunction f (where the eigenfunction is normalized to $||f||_2 = 1$ and the mass is determined by $|f|^2$), then $|Y| \geq \Omega_{\epsilon} \left(n^{\delta}\right)$. This was improved by Ganguly and Srivastava ([7]) to $|Y| = \Omega\left(\epsilon n^{\epsilon\beta/4}\right)$.

Recently, Alon, Ganguly and Srivastava ([2]), extending the results of Ganguly and Srivastava ([7]), constructed a family of (q+1)-regular graphs of high girth, with many eigenfunctions of small support, of eigenvalues that are dense in $\left(-2\sqrt{q},2\sqrt{q}\right)$. Their graphs have second eigenvalue bounded by $\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{q}\approx 2.121\sqrt{q}$, which is close to being Ramanujan.

As for our contribution, let X, Y be the graphs from Theorem 1.1, with X identified with $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})$ and Y identified with $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$. Let $f\colon X\to\mathbb{C}$ be

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & x \in \mathrm{PSL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right) \\ -1 & x \in \mathrm{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right) - \mathrm{PSL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right) \\ 0 & x \notin \mathrm{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right) \end{cases}$$

Recall that Y is a bipartite graph. The function f is simply the function giving the value +1 to one part of Y, the value -1 to the other part of Y, and the value 0 for the vertices in X - Y.

Theorem 1.9 (Number theoretic Ramanujan graphs with concentrated eigenfunctions). The function $f \in L^2(X)$ is an eigenfunction of the adjacency operator A of X with eigenvalue 0.

Therefore, for every odd prime power q there exists a (q+1)-regular number theoretic Ramanujan graph X of girth greater than $4/3\log_q(|X|)$, with an eigenfunction of the adjacency operator of eigenvalue 0, which is supported on $O(\sqrt{|X|})$ vertices.

Proof. Let $x \in X$. Notice that if $\gamma_k x \in Y$, then also $\gamma_k^{-1} x = \gamma_k^{-2} \gamma_k x \in Y$. Moreover, $\gamma_k x$ and $\gamma_k^{-1} x$ are on different parts of Y, as they differ by γ_k^2 which is a generator of Y as a Cayley graph, and Y is bipartite. Therefore, the total number of +1 contributions to (Af)(x) is equal to the total number of -1 contributions to (Af)(x). Therefore (Af)(x) = 0.

Notice that after normalization our eigenfunction to $||f||_2 = 1$, we have $||f||_{\infty} = \Omega\left(n^{-1/4}\right)$. By moving the eigenfunction with the automorphisms of the Cayley graph, we actually get $\Theta\left(\sqrt{n}\right)$ such functions. We are not familiar with any similar construction of an explicit non-trivial eigenfunction on number-theoretic graphs. However, our method is limited to the eigenvalue 0.

We remark that our method is similar to the work of Milićević about large values of eigenfunctions of arithmetic hyperbolic 3-manifolds ([21]), and also to the earlier work of Rudnick and Sarnak ([27]). Their methods show that an automorphic eigenfunction can have a large supremum-norm at closed orbits of smaller subgroups. The work [21], in particular, uses subgroups coming from field extensions. The main difference is that in our combinatorial setting we can explicitly construct the eigenfunction, and this eigenfunction is not automorphic in the sense that it is not an eigenfunction of the other Hecke operators that act on the space. However, the eigenvalue 0 can be perhaps explained by the existence of an automorphic lift from the smaller group. It will be interesting to clarify this. Finally, it will be interesting to apply the methods of [27, 21] to graphs, as they may prove the existence of more general eigenfunctions with a large supremum norm.

1.6 The Closed Orbit Method

In the following, we explain the closed orbit method more accurately and state our abstract theorem about it.

Let G be a locally compact group, $H \leq G$ a closed subgroup and $\Gamma \leq G$ a cocompact lattice. For $\Gamma x \in \Gamma \backslash G$, we may look at the H-orbit $\Gamma x H \subset \Gamma \backslash G$. The H-action defines a map

$$\tilde{F}_{\Gamma}: \Gamma_{x,H} \backslash H \to \Gamma \backslash G$$
,

where $\Gamma_{x,H} = x^{-1}\Gamma x \cap H$, given by sending $\Gamma_{x,H}h$ to Γxh . Its image is $\Gamma xH \subset \Gamma \backslash G$.

An H-orbit, which is the image of this map, can be quite complicated topologically. However, when $\Gamma_{x,H}$ is a lattice in H, the map becomes much simpler, and in particular, it becomes a topological embedding, and its image is closed. We will focus of the case when $x = e \in G$ is the

identity, and denote $\Gamma_H = \Gamma_{e,H} = \Gamma \cap H$. For our combinatorial purposes, we move from the group G itself to a discrete space. We assume that G and $H \leq G$ are semisimple p-adic groups, and let $K \leq G$ be a compact open subgroup. The space G/K is a discrete space with a G-action, which is closely related to the Bruhat-Tits building B_G of G. For simplicity, we will work with the space G/K instead of the Bruhat-Tits building B_G . The left H-action on G/K defines an embedding

$$H/K_H \to G/K$$

where $K_H = H \cap K$.

The reader may restrict herself to the case when $G = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$, $H = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2)))$, $K = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q[[t]])$ and $K_H = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q[[t^2]])$. Then G/K and H/K_H may be identified with the vertices of the Bruhat-Tits buildings B_G and B_H .

When we insert Γ again into the picture, we get a map of discrete spaces

$$F_{\Gamma}: \Gamma_H \backslash H/K_H \to \Gamma \backslash G/K.$$

When Γ_H is a lattice in H, this is a map between two finite combinatorial objects.

For the applications, we want two properties: First, Γ_H should indeed be a lattice in H. Second, we want $\Gamma_H \backslash H/K_H$ to be as small as possible relative to $\Gamma \backslash G/K$.

To achieve the two properties we turn to number theory. Our general method will be:

- 1. Construct an arithmetic lattice $\Gamma \leq G$ such that Γ_H is a lattice in H.
- 2. Take congruence covers Γ_n of Γ , such that the index $[\Gamma_H : \Gamma_n \cap \Gamma_H]$ will grow far slower than the index $[\Gamma : \Gamma_n]$.

We implement the above when H and G are related by field extension. The actual details are based on the theory of semisimple groups over adelic rings, and is done in Section 3. Here is a non-precise version of our general abstract theorem. A precise version is given in Theorem 3.7.

Theorem 1.10 (The Closed Orbit Method). Assume that k_0 is a non-Archimedean local field, l_0 is a finite field extension of k_0 and G is a semisimple algebraic group defined over k_0 . Let $H = G(k_0) \le G = G(l_0)$. Then in many cases described in Section 3, we may choose a cocompact arithmetic lattice $\Gamma \le G$, such that $\Gamma_H = \Gamma \cap H \le H$ is also a cocompact arithmetic lattice. Moreover, we may choose a sequence $\{\Gamma_n\}$ of principal congruence subgroups of Γ of growing index, such that

$$[\Gamma_H:\Gamma_n\cap\Gamma_H]=O\left(\left[\Gamma:\Gamma_n\right]^{1/[l_0:k_0]}\right).$$

Therefore, it holds that $|(\Gamma_n \cap \Gamma_H) \setminus H/K_H| = O(|\Gamma_n \setminus G/K|^{1/[l_0:k_0]})$. We conclude that we can construct a map between a small combinatorial object and a large combinatorial object, which locally looks like the embedding of H/K_H in G/K.

1.7 Vertex Expansion without Closed Orbits

Our explicit construction is based on the graphs of Morgenstern ([22]) and not on the more famous LPS graphs of Lubotzky, Phillips and Sarnak ([16]). As a matter of fact, our method completely fails for LPS graphs, since they are based on lattices in $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, p prime, and \mathbb{Q}_p has no closed subfields. In particular, $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ has no closed subgroup, which behave similarly to the closed subgroup $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2)))$ of $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$.

More generally, the LPS graphs are constructed from quaternion algebras over \mathbb{Q} , and \mathbb{Q} has no subfields, which prevents us from applying the method we explain in Section 3.

While our results may suggest that the LPS graphs may also have bad vertex expansion, we believe that the results actually point in the other direction. One can perhaps use the lack of similar subgroups to show that the LPS graphs have good vertex expansion, although implementing this idea seems hard.

Therefore, we end the introduction with the following conjecture:

Conjecture 1.11 (LPS graphs are lossless expanders). Let q be fixed and large, and X_n be the family of (q+1)-regular Ramanujan graphs constructed in [16]. Then for every $\epsilon > 0$, there is n large enough such that for every set $Y \subset X_n$ with $|Y| \leq |X_n|^{1-\epsilon}$, we have

$$|N(Y)| \ge (q + 1 - o(q))|Y|.$$

Structure of this Article

In Section 2 we prove the explicit part of Theorem 1.1, showing explicit number theoretic Ramanujan graphs with bad vertex expansion for odd prime powers. We assume the results of [22], the proof uses elementary number theory in function fields, and is independent of the rest of the paper.

In Section 3 we state and prove the precise version of Theorem 1.10, which is our general theorem presenting the closed orbit method. The proof is based on the theory of semisimple groups over the adeles, and in particular on the strong approximation theorem.

In Section 4 we present the implications of the closed orbit method to vertex expansion and edge expansion. We apply Theorem 1.10 to division algebras, discuss the Bruhat-Tits building, and prove Theorem 1.7 and Theorem 1.4. We also prove the non-explicit part of Theorem 1.1.

Finally, in Section 5, we present simple proofs of Kahale's theorems, using the results of [3]. This section is independent of the other sections.

Acknowledgement

The authors wish to thank Joseph Bernstein, Alex Lubotzky, Sidhanth Mohanty, Peter Sarnak and Nikhil Srivastava for discussions surrounding this project. This work began when the first-named author was a PhD student in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under Alex Lubotzky, and was supported by ERC grant 692854.

A shortened version of this worked appeared in the proceedings of STOC 2022.

2 Explicit Number Theoretic Graphs with Bad Vertex Expansion

The main goal of this section is to prove the explicit part (i.e., for odd prime powers q) of Theorem 1.1. The theorem is more than a special case of Theorem 1.10, since the lattices do not come from simply connected groups, as we assume (implicitly) in Theorem 1.10. This allows us to construct very explicit Cayley graphs, but add another layer of complication, which we resolve using Morgenstern's results.

Let us first give a short explanation how the explicit construction fits into the general framework. Let $\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1} \rangle$ be a free group with $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$ as generators and their inverses. Let Γ' be the subgroup of Γ generated by $\delta_1, ..., \delta_{q+1}$, where $\delta_i = \gamma_i^2$.

The Cayley graph $T_{\Gamma} = \text{Cayley}(\Gamma, \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\})$ is a (q+1)-regular tree. Similarly, $T_{\Gamma'} = \text{Cayley}(\Gamma', \{\delta_1, ..., \delta_{q+1}\})$ is also a (q+1)-regular tree. The embedding of Γ' in Γ gives an embedding of the vertices of $T_{\Gamma'}$ in T_{Γ} . Moreover, each edge in $T_{\Gamma'}$ corresponds to two edges in T_{Γ} , or alternatively, the embedding extends to a graph embedding of the (q+1,2)-biregular subdivision graph of $T_{\Gamma'}$ in T_{Γ} . We deduce that if $Z \subset T_{\Gamma}$ is the embedding of the vertices of $T_{\Gamma'}$ into T_{Γ} , then

every vertex $v \in N(Z)$ is connected to two vertices of Z. This is a version of Lemma 1.2 in our case.

Now, let Γ_n be a finite index normal subgroup of Γ . Then we may look at the Cayley graph $X = \text{Cayley}(\Gamma/\Gamma_n, \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\}))$ (with the elements being identified with their image in Γ/Γ_n). Alternatively, X can be identified with the quotient of T_{Γ} by Γ_n . There is a natural embedding $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma_n) \to \Gamma/\Gamma_n$. The image Y of this embedding can be identified with the projection of $Z \subset T_{\Gamma}$ to X. We deduce that every neighbor of Y is also connected to Y by at least two edges.

The problem is then to find a subgroup Γ_n such that |Y| will be much smaller than |X|, or alternatively $[\Gamma':\Gamma'\cap\Gamma_n]$ will be much smaller than $[\Gamma:\Gamma_n]$, which will be an explicit version of Lemma 1.3. During the proof, we will show that this holds for the Morgenstern graphs using explicit calculations.

It may be hard to identify the relation between the proof and the general theory, which involves p-adic groups. After setting some preliminaries we explain some of it in Remark 2.5, and later we explain another part of the connection in Subsection 4.1.1.

Throughout the proof, we freely use basic number theory in function fields. See [26] for a good introduction to this subject.

We start by recalling the construction of the Morgenstern Ramanujan graphs ([22]). Let q be an odd prime power, with \mathbb{F}_q the corresponding finite field. Consider the quaternion algebra $A(\mathbb{F}_q(u))$, which has a base 1, i, j, ij over $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$, with relations

$$i^2 = \epsilon, j^2 = u - 1, ij = -ji,$$

where $\epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q$ is a non-square. This algebra has a norm

$$N(a + bi + cj + dij) = a^2 - \epsilon b^2 + (\epsilon d^2 - c^2)(u - 1).$$

We let $A^{\times}\left(\mathbb{F}_{q}\left(u\right)\right)/Z^{\times}$ be the quotient of the invertible elements of $A\left(\mathbb{F}_{q}\left(u\right)\right)$ by the equivalence condition $\alpha \sim \alpha'$ if and only if there is $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q}\left(u\right)$ with $a\alpha = \alpha'$.

Denote by $A(\mathbb{F}_q[u])$ the elements of A with $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{F}_q[u]$. There are q + 1 elements $\{\gamma'_1, ..., \gamma'_{q+1}\} \subset A(\mathbb{F}_q[u])$, satisfying

$$\gamma_k' = 1 + c_k j + d_k i j,$$

with $c_k, d_k \in \mathbb{F}_q$ and $N(\gamma_k') = u$. Those elements correspond to the q+1 solutions of $\epsilon d^2 - c^2 = 1$. We let $S = \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\}$ be the image of those elements in $A^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(u))/Z^{\times}$. Finally, let Γ be the group generated by $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$.

Theorem 2.1 ([22, Corollary 4.7]). Γ is a free group on $\frac{q+1}{2}$ generators, with $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$ as generators and their inverses. Moreover, there is a bijection between Γ and the set

$$\begin{split} \Big\{\alpha = a + bi + cj + dij \in A\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left[u\right]\right) : &\exists l \geq 0, N\left(\alpha\right) = u^l, \\ u - 1|\gcd\left(a - 1, b\right), u \nmid \gcd\left(a, b, c, d\right) \Big\}. \end{split}$$

The bijection is given by choosing for every $\gamma \in \Gamma$ the unique element in its equivalence class in $A^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(u))$ from the set above.

Now let $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[u]$ be an irreducible polynomial of degree 2m. Then the congruence subgroup $\Gamma(g)$ of Γ is the set of elements of Γ who have in their equivalence class an element $a+bi+cj+dij \in A(\mathbb{F}_q[u])$, satisfying $g \nmid a, g|b, g|c, g|d$.

Recall that the Legendre symbol for $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q(u), g \neq 0$ irreducible is defined as

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & g|f\\ 1 & f \text{ is a square} \neq 0 \mod g\\ -1 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$
$$\equiv f^{\left(q^{\deg g} - 1\right)/2} \pmod{g}.$$

Theorem 2.2 ([22, Theorem 4.13]). The Cayley graph $X_g = \text{Cayley}(\Gamma/\Gamma(g), \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\})$ is a (q+1)-regular Ramanujan graph.

There are two possibilities, depending on the Legendre symbol $\left(\frac{u}{g}\right)$:

- 1. If $\left(\frac{u}{g}\right) = -1$ then the group $\Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$, the graph X_g is bipartite and its girth is at least $\frac{4}{3}\log_q\left(|X_g|\right)$.
- 2. If $\left(\frac{u}{g}\right) = 1$ then the group $\Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ is isomorphic to $\mathrm{PSL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$, the graph X_g is not bipartite, and its girth is at least $\frac{2}{3}\log_g\left(|X_g|\right)$.

We now consider the q+1 elements $S'=\{\delta_1,...,\delta_{q+1}\}\subset A^\times\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(u\right)\right)/Z^\times$ satisfying $\delta_k=\gamma_k^2$, so explicitly

$$\delta_k = 2 - u + 2c_k j + 2d_k i j.$$

Let $\Gamma' = \langle \delta_1, ..., \delta_{q+1} \rangle \leq \Gamma$.

To prove Theorem 1.1 we need to understand the group $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g))$ and its Cayley structure relative to the generators $\delta_1, ..., \delta_{g+1}$.

It is simpler to work with valuations instead of divisions. Recall that the valuations of the field $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$ are $v_{1/u}$ defined by $v_{1/u}\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = \deg_u g - \deg_u f$, $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q[u]$, and for every irreducible monic polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}_q(u)$ the valuation $\nu_p\left(p^a\frac{f}{g}\right) = a$, where $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q(u)$ are not divisible by p.

Using the language of valuations, $\Gamma(g)$ contains all the elements of $A^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_{q}(u))/Z^{\times}$, which are in the free group generated by $\gamma_{1},...,\gamma_{q+1}$, and further have an element $\alpha=a+bi+cj+dij$ in their equivalence class satisfying:

$$v_{g}\left(a\right)=0,v_{g}\left(b\right)>0,v_{g}\left(c\right)>0,v_{g}\left(d\right)>0.$$

Next we make the change of variables $t = \frac{u}{2-u}$. It holds that $u = \frac{2t}{t+1}$, $u - 1 = \frac{t-1}{t+1}$ and $2 - u = \frac{2}{t+1}$.

When make a change of variables, the quaternion algebra A changes to the quaternion algebra $A_1 = \text{span}\{1, i_1, j_1, i_1 j_1\}$ over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ with $i_1^2 = \epsilon$, $j_1^2 = \frac{t-1}{t+1}$, $i_1 j_1 = -j_1 i_1$. In the new algebra, we have

$$\gamma_k = 1 + c_k j_1 + d_k i_1 j_1$$
$$\delta_k = \frac{2}{t+1} + 2c_k j_1 + 2d_k i_1 j_1.$$

Let $T: \mathbb{F}_q(u) \to \mathbb{F}_q(t)$, $T(f(u)) = f\left(\frac{2t}{t+1}\right)$ be the isomorphism of fields defined by the change of coordinates. There is a bijection between valuations v of $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$ and valuations σ of $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$, defined by $v(f) = \sigma(T(f))$ for every $f \in \mathbb{F}_q(u)$. Let us describe this bijection.

The change of variables is a composition of two simpler operations: A linear transformation $t = au + b, a \neq 0, b \in \mathbb{F}_q$ and an inversion t = 1/u.

For t = au + b, the bijection is as follows: $v_{1/u}$ corresponds to $\sigma_{1/t}$, and for g(u) monic irreducible, $\deg g = m'$, let $h\left(t\right) = a^{-m'}g\left(at + b\right)$. Then v_g corresponds to σ_h .

For t=1/u, the bijection is as follows: $v_{1/u}$ corresponds to σ_t , v_u corresponds to $\sigma_{1/t}$, and for g(u) monic irreducible, $g(u) \neq u$, $\deg g = m'$, $g(u) = u^{m'} + a_{m'-1}u + \dots + a_0$, let $h(t) = a_0^{-1}t^{m'}g(1/t) = t^{m'} + a_1a_0^{-1}t^{m'-1} + \dots + a_{m'-1}a_0^{-1}t + a_0^{-1}$. Then v_g corresponds to σ_h . Applying the above to $t = \frac{u}{2-u}$, $u = \frac{2t}{t+1}$, the bijection is

$$v_{1/u} \leftrightarrow \sigma_{t+1}$$

 $v_{u-2} \leftrightarrow \sigma_{1/t}$,

and for $g(u) \neq u-2$ of degree m', let h(t) the monic polynomial corresponding to $(t+1)^{m'} g\left(\frac{2t}{t+1}\right)$. Then $v_q \leftrightarrow \sigma_h$.

The other direction of this correspondence is given as follows: For $h(t) \neq t+1$ of degree m', let g(t) be the monic polynomial corresponding to $(u-2)^{m'} h\left(\frac{u}{2-u}\right)$. Then $\sigma_h \leftrightarrow v_g$.

Lemma 2.3. Using the correspondence above, for $g(u) \neq u - 2$, it holds that $\left(\frac{u}{g(u)}\right) = \left(\frac{2t(t+1)}{h(t)}\right)$.

Proof. The Legendre symbol $\left(\frac{f(u)}{g(u)}\right)$ for $v_g(f) \geq 0$ is determined by whether the image of f in the finite field $\{f' \in \mathbb{F}_q(u) : v_g(f') \geq 0\} / \{f' \in \mathbb{F}_q(u) : v_g(f') > 0\}$ is zero, a non-zero square, or neither. Since $u = \frac{2t}{t+1}$ and $2t(t+1) = \frac{2t}{t+1}(t+1)^2$, the result follows.

Returning to $\Gamma(g)$, let h(t) correspond to g(u) as above. Then after the change of coordinates we have:

Lemma 2.4. The group $\Gamma(g)$ is isomorphic subgroup of $A_1^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t))/Z^{\times}$ generated by $\gamma_1,..,\gamma_{q+1},...,\gamma_{q+1}$ $\gamma_k = 1 + c_k j_1 + d_k i_1 j_1$, such that there is an element in the equivalent class satisfying

$$v_h(a) = 0, v_h(b) > 0, v_h(c) > 0, v_h(d) > 0.$$
 (2.1)

The group $\Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$ if and only if $\left(\frac{2t(t+1)}{h(t)}\right)=-1$.

Next, we change the algebra to an equivalent algebra. Let $A_2 = \text{span}\{1, i_2, j_2, i_2 j_2\}$ be the quaternion algebra over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ with $i_2^2 = \epsilon$, $j_2^2 = (t+1)(t-1) = t^2 - 1$, $i_2j_2 = -j_2i_2$. Then $A_1\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)\right) \cong A_2\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)\right)$, with the explicit isomorphism

$$a + bi_1 + cj_1 + di_1j_1 \in A_1\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)\right) \leftrightarrow a + bi_2 + \frac{c}{t+1}j_2 + \frac{d}{t+1}i_2j_2 \in A_2\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)\right).$$

In the new algebra,

$$\gamma_k = 1 + \frac{c_k}{t+1} j_2 + \frac{d_k}{t+1} i_2 j_2$$

$$\delta_k = \frac{2}{t+1} + \frac{2}{t+1} c_k j_2 + \frac{2}{t+1} d_k i_2 j_2$$

$$= 1 + c_k j_2 + d_k i_2 j_2.$$

The last equality follows from the fact that we work in $A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t))/Z^{\times}$.

Moving to $A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t))/Z^{\times}$, Γ is generated by $\gamma_1,...,\gamma_{q+1} \in A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t))/Z^{\times}$, while $\Gamma(g)$ consists of the elements with an element in their equivalence class satisfying Equation (2.1).

Therefore Γ' is generated by $\delta_1, ..., \delta_{q+1} \in A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t))$, and $\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)$ are the elements in Γ' satisfying Equation (2.1).

Denote $s=t^2$. Notice that A_2 is defined over $\mathbb{F}_q(s)$, and moreover $A_2(\mathbb{F}_q(s))$ is the quaternion algebra defined by the relations $i_2^2=\epsilon$, $j_2^2=s-1$, $i_2j_2=-j_2i_2$. Therefore, $A_2(\mathbb{F}_q(s))$ is the same algebra as $A(\mathbb{F}_q(u))$, up to changing u to s. Moreover, the elements $\delta_1,...,\delta_{q+1}$ are actually defined over $\mathbb{F}_q(s)$, and correspond to the elements $\gamma_1,...,\gamma_{q+1}$ of $A(\mathbb{F}_q(u))$! This is the "miracle" underlying this construction.

Remark 2.5. Let us stop the proof for a moment and explain the connection between Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.10.

After the change of variables, look at the group $G = A_2^{\times} (\mathbb{F}_q((t)))/Z^{\times} \cong \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$. Morgenstern shows that Γ acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits building B_G of G, so the Cayley graph of Γ with respect to $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$ can be identified with B_G .

Denote $H = A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(t^2))/Z^{\times} \cong \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(t^2))$ which is a closed subgroup of G. It is not hard to see that $\Gamma' = \Gamma \cap H$. The calculation above implies that Γ' acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits building B_H of H, and its Cayley graph with respect to $\delta_1, ..., \delta_{q+1}$ is isomorphic to B_H . Therefore, $\Gamma' = \Gamma \cap H$ is a lattice in H, which is far from obvious. As we explain in Section 4, this fact also follows from the fact that A_2 is actually defined over $\mathbb{F}_q(s) = \mathbb{F}_q(t^2)$.

The embedding of the group Γ' in Γ is the same as the embedding of B_H in B_G . This implies that the embedding of $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g))$ in $\Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ is the same as the embedding of $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)) \setminus B_H$ in $\Gamma(g) \setminus B_G$.

In the next part of the proof we study the growth of $[\Gamma' : (\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g))]$ relative to $[\Gamma : \Gamma(g)]$ as in Lemma 1.3 or Theorem 1.10. We will actually understand a bit more than that.

Continuing the proof, we may assume that $\Gamma' \subset A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(s))/Z^{\times}$. However, we still need to handle the conditions of Equation (2.1) to understand $\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)$.

There are two cases: the "good case" $h \in \mathbb{F}_q\left(t^2\right) = \mathbb{F}_q\left(s\right)$ (i.e., h only has t to an even power) and the "bad case" $h \notin \mathbb{F}_q\left(t^2\right) = \mathbb{F}_q\left(s\right)$.

In the good case, let $\tilde{h}(s) \in \mathbb{F}_q(s)$ be polynomial satisfying $\tilde{h}(t^2) = h(t)$. Notice that $\deg(\tilde{h}) = \deg(h)/2 = \deg(g)/2 = m$.

In the bad case, let $\tilde{h}(s) \in \mathbb{F}_q(s)$ be the polynomial satisfying $\tilde{h}(t^2) = h(t)h(-t)$.

In both cases, $\tilde{h}(s) \in \mathbb{F}_q(s) = \mathbb{F}_q(t^2)$ is an irreducible polynomial (or prime), which lies below the irreducible polynomial $h(t) \in \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ in the extension of $\mathbb{F}_q(s)$ to $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$. In other words, it holds that $h(t) \mathbb{F}_q[t] \cap \mathbb{F}_q[s] = \tilde{h}(s) \mathbb{F}_q[s]$ and for $f \in \mathbb{F}_q(s)$, $v_h(f(t^2)) = v_{\tilde{h}}(f(s))$.

This implies that we may identify Γ' as the subgroup of $A_2^{\times}(\mathbb{F}_q(s))/Z^{\times}$, generated by $\delta_k = 1 + c_k j_2 + d_k i_2 j_2$, and $\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)$ as its subgroup of elements with an element in the equivalence class satisfying $v_{\tilde{h}}(a) = 0, v_{\tilde{h}}(b) > 0, v_{\tilde{h}}(c) > 0, v_{\tilde{h}}(d) > 0$.

The final description is exactly the description of the Morgenstern graph, with u replaced by s and g(u) replaced by $\tilde{h}(s)$. Therefore:

Theorem 2.6. $Y_g = \text{Cayley}\left(\Gamma'/\left(\Gamma'\cap\Gamma\left(g\right)\right), \{\delta_1,...,\delta_{q+1}\}\right)$ is isomorphic to the Morgenstern graph $X_{\tilde{h}}$.

In particular, the subgroup $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)) \leq \Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ is isomorphic to either $\mathrm{PSL}_2\left(q^{\deg \tilde{h}}\right)$ or $\mathrm{PGL}_2\left(q^{\deg \tilde{h}}\right)$.

Our next goal is to understand which of the two cases, PSL_2 or PGL_2 happens. In the "good case", $\tilde{h}(s) \in \mathbb{F}_q(s) = \mathbb{F}_q(t^2)$ remains irreducible in the extension to $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$. In other words, it is inert in the extension. Since this is a quadratic extension, it is well known that it happens if and only if $\left(\frac{s}{\tilde{h}(s)}\right) = -1$. In this case, by Theorem 2.2, Y_g is a bipartite Cayley graph on $PGL_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{\text{deg }\tilde{h}}}\right) = PGL_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right)$.

In the "bad case", $h\left(s\right)\in\mathbb{F}_{q}\left(s\right)=\mathbb{F}_{q}\left(t^{2}\right)$ splits in the extension to $\mathbb{F}_{q}\left(t\right)$. This happens if and only if $\left(\frac{s}{\tilde{h}\left(s\right)}\right)=1$. In this case, by Theorem 2.2, Y_{g} is a non-bipartite Cayley graph on $\mathrm{PSL}_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{\deg\tilde{h}}}\right)=\mathrm{PSL}_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$.

For Theorem 1.1, we need to prove that the good case may happen, and to understand X_g in this case. For this we notice that we may first choose $\tilde{h} \in \mathbb{F}_q(s)$ of degree m, which is inert in the field extension to $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$, then get $h(t) = \tilde{h}(t^2)$ and finally get g(u) from it as the irreducible monic corresponding to $(u-2)^{2m} h\left(\frac{u}{2-u}\right)$.

We recall quadratic reciprocity in $\mathbb{F}_q(s)$ ([26, Theorem 3.3]), which states that for $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q[s]$ irreducible

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{2}\deg f \deg g} \left(\frac{g}{f}\right).$$

Then

$$\left(\frac{s}{\tilde{h}\left(s\right)}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{2}\deg\tilde{h}}\left(\frac{\tilde{h}\left(s\right)}{s}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{2}\deg\tilde{h}}\left(\frac{\tilde{h}\left(0\right)}{s}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{2}\deg\tilde{h}}\left(\frac{\tilde{h}\left(0\right)}{q}\right).$$

The last element is the usual Legendre symbol in \mathbb{Z} .

Next,

$$\left(\frac{2t\left(t+1\right)}{h\left(t\right)}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{h\left(t\right)}\right) \left(\frac{t}{h\left(t\right)}\right) \left(\frac{t+1}{h\left(t\right)}\right).$$

Since h(t) is of even degree, $\mathbb{F}_q(t)/h(t)\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ contains \mathbb{F}_{q^2} . Therefore, every $a \in \mathbb{F}_q$ has a square root in it and $\left(\frac{2}{h(t)}\right) = 1$. It holds by quadratic reciprocity, since the degree of h(t) is even, that

$$\left(\frac{t}{h\left(t\right)}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(t\right)}{t}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(0\right)}{t}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(0\right)}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{\tilde{h}\left(0\right)}{q}\right)$$
$$\left(\frac{t+1}{h\left(t\right)}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(t\right)}{t+1}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(-1\right)}{t+1}\right) = \left(\frac{h\left(-1\right)}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{\tilde{h}\left(1\right)}{q}\right).$$

The last two elements in each row are the Legendre symbol in \mathbb{Z} . Therefore, $\left(\frac{2t(t+1)}{h(t)}\right) = \left(\frac{\tilde{h}(0)}{q}\right) \left(\frac{\tilde{h}(1)}{q}\right)$ determines whether X_g is PGL or PSL.

We conclude that by determining $\tilde{h}(0)$, $\tilde{h}(1)$ we can make Y_g be isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$ and X_g to be isomorphic to either of $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})$ or $\operatorname{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})$. Finally, for m large enough, we may freely choose $\tilde{h}(0)$, $\tilde{h}(1)$ while keeping \tilde{h} irreducible by Chabotarev's density theorem ([26, Theorem 4.7] and Theorem 4.8]).

We collect our findings in the following lemma:

Lemma 2.7. For every m large enough, we may find a monic irreducible polynomial g of degree 2m such that:

- 1. The Morgenstern Ramanujan Cayley graph $X_g = \text{Cayley}\left(\Gamma/\Gamma\left(g\right), \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\}\right)$ is bipartite, $\Gamma/\Gamma\left(g\right) \cong \text{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$ and its girth is greater than $4/3\log_q\left(|X_g|\right)$.
- 2. The subgroup $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)) \leq \Gamma/\Gamma(g)$ that is generated by $\{\gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2\}$ is isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$. Moreover, $Y_g = \operatorname{Cayley}\left(\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g)), \{\gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2\}\right)$ is also a Morgenstern Ramanujan graph.

Notice that the lemma implies that $|Y_g| = |\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})| = O\left(\sqrt{|\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})|}\right) = O(\sqrt{|X_g|})$. By the discussion at the beginning of this section, we conclude that Lemma 2.7 is an explicit version of Lemma 1.3.

We need however another result to complete the explicit part of the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Lemma 2.8. Every vertex $x \in N(Y_q)$ is connected to exactly two vertices in Y_q .

Proof. If $x \in N(Y_g)$, then $x = \gamma_i y$, for $y \in Y_g$, and γ_i a generator. Therefore, x is connected in X_g to both $y = \gamma_i^{-1} x$ and $\gamma_i^2 y = \gamma_i x \in Y_g$. Therefore, every neighbor of Y_g is connected to at least two vertices of it (we discussed this part of the proof at the beginning of the section).

Assume by contradiction that $x \in N(Y_g)$ is connected to more than two vertices of Y_g , then by applying the automorphism of the Cayley graph X_g defined by subgroup $\Gamma'/(\Gamma' \cap \Gamma(g))$, we would get $O(|Y_g|)$ other neighbors of Y_g which are connected to more than 2 vertices of Y_g . Then there is some $\delta > 0$ such that on average a neighbor of Y_g is connected to $2 + \delta$ vertices in Y_g . This contradicts Kahale's vertex expansion Theorem 5.6.

Remark 2.9. Assume that we choose $\tilde{h}(s)$, $\deg \tilde{h}(s) = m$, such that it splits in the extension to $\tilde{h}(t^2) = h(t) h(-t)$. Then a similar construction still works – we look at $g(u) = g_1(u) g_2(u)$, where $g_1(u)$ corresponds to h(t) and $g_2(u)$ corresponds to h(-t). Then $\Gamma(g) = \Gamma(g_1) \cap \Gamma(g_2)$ defines a Cayley graph $X_g = \text{Cayley}(\Gamma/\Gamma(g), \{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\})$. There is an embedding $F: Y_g \cong X_{\tilde{h}} \to X_g$, which extends to a graph map on the subdivision graph Y'_g of Y_g .

In this case Y_g will be a Cayley graph on $\operatorname{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$, while X_g will be a Cayley graph on some subgroup between $\operatorname{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}) \times \operatorname{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$ and $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}) \times \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$. So again we get a similar map from a small (q+1,2)-biregular graph and a big (q+1)-regular Ramanujan graph.

2.1 Explicit Generators

We shortly describe how to construct our graphs explicitly. Assume we are given monic irreducible $\tilde{h}(s) \in \mathbb{F}_q(s)$, deg $\tilde{h} = m$, which is inert (remains irreducible) in the extension to $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$.

Let $h(t) = \tilde{h}(t^2)$ be the irreducible polynomial of degree 2m in $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ above $\tilde{h}(s)$. Let $\epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q$ be a non-square and let $i \in \mathbb{F}_q(t)/h(t)\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ be a square root of ϵ (which exists since h is of even degree). Consider the following elements in $\operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q(t)/h(t)\mathbb{F}_q(t)) \cong \operatorname{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})$:

$$egin{aligned} \gamma_k &= \left(egin{array}{cc} t+1 & (c_k-d_koldsymbol{i}) \ (c_k+d_koldsymbol{i}) \left(t^2-1
ight) & t+1 \end{array}
ight) \ \delta_k &= \gamma_k^2 = \left(egin{array}{cc} 1 & (c_k-d_koldsymbol{i}) \ (c_k+d_koldsymbol{i}) \left(t^2-1
ight) & 1 \end{array}
ight) \end{aligned}$$

(we work modulu center, so it makes sense). Recall that (c_k, d_k) are the (q+1) solutions to $\epsilon d^2 - c^2 = 1$

Then $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$ generate a Ramanujan Cayley graph isomorphic to the Morgenstern Cayley graph of the monic polynomial corresponding to $(u-2)^{2m} h\left(\frac{u}{2-u}\right)$. The elements $\{\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}\}$

generate $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}\right)$ if and only if $\left(\frac{2t(t+1)}{h(t)}\right) = \left(\frac{\tilde{h}(0)}{q}\right)\left(\frac{\tilde{h}(1)}{q}\right) = -1$. The elements δ_k generate a Ramanujan Cayley graph isomorphic to $\operatorname{PGL}_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}\right)$. This is simplest to see when m itself is even, since then $\epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q\left(t^2\right)/\tilde{h}\left(t^2\right)\mathbb{F}_q\left(t^2\right) \subset \mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)/h\left(t\right)\mathbb{F}_q\left(t\right)$, and the δ_k are the generators given in [22, Equation (14)].

3 The Closed Orbit Method

The goal of this section is to formalize and prove Theorem 1.10, which we do in Theorem 3.7. The proof follows the standard construction of arithmetic cocompact lattices, and keeps track of its behavior when taking field extensions. The essential results are the second part of Theorem 3.4 and Lemma 3.6, which relates lattices in a group with a lattice in a subgroup.

We use several standard results about semisimple groups over global fields, which may be found in Prasad's work [25]. To keep our arguments short, we assume familiarity with the theory.

Here is our general setting: Let k be a global field (a number field or a finite extension of $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$) and let l be a finite separable field extension of k. We denote the places of k using the letter v with k_v being the field completion. Similarly, we denote the places of l by the letter w, with l_w being the field completion. For the non-Archimedean places, we let \mathcal{O}_v (resp. \mathcal{O}_w) be the ring of integers of k_v (resp. l_w), and let π_v (resp. π_w) be a uniformizer of k_v (resp. l_w).

Let \mathbb{A}_k and \mathbb{A}_l be the adele rings of k and l, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{A}_k = \left\{ (x_v) \in \prod_v k_v : x_v \in \mathcal{O}_v \text{ for almost every } v \right\},\,$$

and similarly for \mathbb{A}_l .

Let G be a semisimple algebraic group defined over k, defined by set of equations as a subgroup of SL_N . We will use the same notation G for its extension of scalars to l. We assume that G is connected, simply connected, and almost-simple over k and over l. Let \tilde{G} be the split form of G, so over the algebraic closure \overline{k} of k (and l), $G(\overline{k}) \cong \tilde{G}(\overline{k})$.

Notice that $G(k_v)$ and $G(l_w)$ are well-defined, and have a natural topology coming from the embedding $G(k_v) \subset \operatorname{SL}_N(k_v) \subset M_N(k_v)$. In addition, $G(\mathcal{O}_v)$ and $G(\mathcal{O}_w)$ are also well-defined for almost every v and almost every w. For almost every place v of k, the isomorphism $G(\overline{k}) \cong \tilde{G}(\overline{k})$ is actually defined over k_v , so there is an isomorphism $G(k_v) \cong \tilde{G}(k_v)$. Moreover, after dropping a finite number of places v of k, $G(\mathcal{O}_v) \cong \tilde{G}(\mathcal{O}_v)$ is well-defined, and is a maximal compact open subgroup of $G(k_v)$. For such v, let $w_1, ..., w_m$ be the places of l over v. Then $G(l_{w_i}) \cong \tilde{G}(l_{w_i})$, $G(\mathcal{O}_{w_i}) \cong \tilde{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_i})$ and there is a diagonal embedding $G(k_v) \to \prod_{i=1}^m G(k_{w_i})$, such that $G(k_v) \cap \prod G(\mathcal{O}_{w_i}) = G(\mathcal{O}_v)$.

For the finite number of non-Archimedean places where the above does not hold, the embedding $G(k_v) \to \prod_{i=1}^m G(k_{w_i})$ is still well-defined, and for every compact open subgroup of $\prod_{i=1}^m K_{w_i} \le \prod_{i=1}^m G(l_{w_i})$, the subgroup $K_v = \prod_{i=1}^m K_{w_i} \cap G(k_v) \le G(k_v)$ is a compact open subgroup.

By the above, the adele group

$$G(\mathbb{A}_k) = \left\{ (g_v) \in \prod_v G(k_v) : g_v \in G(\mathcal{O}_v) \text{ for almost every } v \right\}$$

is well-defined, and has a natural topology coming from the topology of \mathbb{A}_k and the embedding $G(\mathbb{A}_k) \subset \operatorname{SL}_N(\mathbb{A}_k) \subset \operatorname{M}_N(\mathbb{A}_k)$. We have a diagonal embedding $G(k) \to G(\mathbb{A}_k)$. The same is true for l.

The local embeddings $G(k_v) \to \prod_{i=1}^m G(k_{w_i})$ extend to a global embedding $G(\mathbb{A}_k) \to G(\mathbb{A}_l)$. Under this embedding, it holds that $G(\mathbb{A}_k) \cap G(l) = G(k)$. We consider all of our groups as subgroups of $G(\mathbb{A}_l)$. For finite sets of places V, W, there are natural projection maps

$$P_{V}: \boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{k}\right) \to \prod_{v \in V} \boldsymbol{G}\left(k_{v}\right)$$

$$P_{W}: \boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{l}\right) \to \prod_{w \in W} \boldsymbol{G}\left(l_{w}\right).$$

Recall that G is called isotropic over a field F if G(F) contains a non-trivial split F-torus, and is called anisotropic over F otherwise. If F is a local field, being anisotropic is equivalent to G(F) being compact in the appropriate topology. We assume that G is anisotropic over I, which implies that it is also anisotropic over I.

We have the following two basic theorems:

Theorem 3.1 (Borel, Behr, Harder). $G(k) \leq G(\mathbb{A}_k)$ and $G(l) \leq G(\mathbb{A}_l)$ are cocompact lattices.

Theorem 3.2 (The strong approximation property – Platonov, Prasad). G satisfies the strong approximation property over k and over l, i.e., for every place v where k is isotropic, $G(k)G(k_v)$ is dense in $G(\mathbb{A}_k)$. The same is true for l.

Let V_0 be a finite set of places of k. We let W_0 be the places of l which lie over the places of V_0 . We assume that G is isotropic over some place in V_0 , which implies that it is isotropic over some place in W_0 . If we work over number fields, we further assume that G is anisotropic over all the Archimedean places of l which are not in W_0 (and therefore also over all the Archimedean places of k which are not in V_0).

We collect our various assumptions into the following definition.

Definition 3.3. Assume that there exist:

- 1. A global field k and l a finite separable field extension of k.
- 2. A semisimple algebraic group G defined over k which is connected, simply connected, and almost-simple over k and over l. Moreover, G is anisotropic over l.
- 3. A finite set V_0 of places of k, with W_0 the places of l over the places of V_0 . The group G is isotropic over some place in V_0 , and is anisotropic over all the Archimedean places of l which are not in W_0 .

Then we say that the pair (G, H) of a group G and subgroup $H \leq G$ is good, where

$$G = \prod_{w \in W_0} \mathbf{G}(l_w)$$
$$H = \prod_{v \in V_0} \mathbf{G}(k_v).$$

Given a good pair (G, H), our next goal is to choose a cocompact lattice $\Gamma \leq G$, such that $\Gamma \cap H \leq H$ is also a cocompact lattice.

Notice that G embeds into $G(\mathbb{A}_l)$ by

$$G \cong \prod_{w \in W_0} \boldsymbol{G}(l_w) \times \prod_{w \notin W_0} \{ \mathrm{id} \} \leq \boldsymbol{G}(\mathbb{A}_l)$$

and similarly H embeds into $G(\mathbb{A}_k)$.

We let

$$\boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{l}^{W_{0}}\right) = \left\{\left(g_{w}\right)_{w} \in \boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{l}\right) : \forall w \in W_{0}, g_{w} = \mathrm{id}\right\}$$
$$\boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{k}^{V_{0}}\right) = \left\{\left(g_{v}\right)_{v} \in \boldsymbol{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_{k}\right) : \forall v \in V_{0}, g_{v} = \mathrm{id}\right\},$$

with the natural induced topology. It holds that $G(\mathbb{A}_l) = GG(\mathbb{A}_l^{W_0})$ and $G(\mathbb{A}_k) = HG(\mathbb{A}_k^{V_0})$.

For $w \notin W_0$ non-Archimedean, fix a compact open subgroup $K_w \leq G(l_w)$, equals almost everywhere to $G(\mathcal{O}_w)$. For the $w \notin W_0$ Archimedean, let $K_w = G(l_w)$, which is compact by our assumptions. For $v \notin V_0$, we let $K_v = \prod_{i=1}^m K_{w_i} \cap G(k_v)$, where $w_1, ..., w_m$ are the places of l over v. By the above, K_v is a compact open subgroup of $G(k_v)$, which is equal almost everywhere to $G(\mathcal{O}_v)$.

The choices of K_w define the compact open subgroup $K_l = \prod_{w \in W_0} \{\text{id}\} \times \prod_{w \notin W_0} K_w$ of $G\left(\mathbb{A}_l^{W_0}\right)$. Then $K_k = K_l \cap G\left(\mathbb{A}_k\right)$ is a compact open subgroup of $G\left(\mathbb{A}_k^{V_0}\right)$ of the form $K_k = \prod_{v \in V_0} \{\text{id}\} \times \prod_{v \notin V_0} K_v$. Notice that K_l and G commute with each other, and GK_l is an open subgroup of $G\left(\mathbb{A}_l\right)$.

We choose

$$\Gamma = P_{W_0} \left(\mathbf{G} \left(l \right) \cap G \mathbf{K}_l \right)$$

$$\Gamma' = P_{V_0} \left(\mathbf{G} \left(k \right) \cap H \mathbf{K}_k \right),$$

$$(3.1)$$

so that Γ, Γ' are subgroups of $G = \prod_{w \in W_0} G(k_w)$ and $H = \prod_{v \in V_0} G(k_v)$.

Theorem 3.4. 1. Γ (resp. Γ') is a cocompact lattice in G (resp. H).

2. It holds that $\Gamma' = H \cap \Gamma$.

Proof. Most of this theorem is standard, and we avoid giving the full details. See, for example, [22, Lemma 3.1] for a similar statement.

The discreteness of Γ in G essentially follows from the discreteness of $l \cap (\prod_{w \notin W_0} \mathcal{O}_w)$ in $\prod_{w \in W_0} l_w$.

By Theorem 3.1, G(l) is a cocompact lattice in $G(\mathbb{A}_l)$. By the strong approximation property and our assumptions, G(l)G is dense in $G(\mathbb{A}_l)$. Moreover, GK_l is open in $G(\mathbb{A}_l)$. This implies that

$$G(l) GK_l = G(\mathbb{A}_l)$$
.

Therefore, the map

$$G \to G(l) \setminus G(\mathbb{A}_l) / K_l$$

is onto, and $g, g' \in G$ are sent to the same element if there are $k \in K_l$ and $\gamma \in G(l)$ such that

$$\gamma g = g'k$$
.

However, g and k commute, so we have $\gamma = g'g^{-1}k$. This implies that $\gamma \in G(l) \cap GK_l$ and $g'g^{-1} = P_{W_0}(\gamma)$.

On the other hand, if $\gamma \in G(l) \cap GK_l$ and $g'g^{-1} = P_{W_0}(\gamma)$, then we may choose $k \in K_l$ such that $\gamma g = g'k$. We conclude that there is an isomorphism

$$G(l) \backslash G(\mathbb{A}_l) / K_l \cong P_{W_0} (G(l) \cap K_l) \backslash G$$

= $\Gamma \backslash G$.

By considering the G right action on the two spaces and the compatibility of measures, we deduce that Γ is a cocompact lattice in G.

For the same reasons, $\Gamma' = \pi_V (G(k) \cap K_k) \leq H$ is cocompact a lattice in H.

Finally, and this is where our proof is slightly less standard, since $P_{W_0}(\boldsymbol{G}(l)) \cap H = P_{W_0}(\boldsymbol{G}(k)) \cap H$, $\boldsymbol{G}(k) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_l} = \boldsymbol{G}(k) \cap H\boldsymbol{K_k}$, and $P_{W_0}(\boldsymbol{G}(\mathbb{A}_k)) = P_{V_0}(\boldsymbol{G}(\mathbb{A}_k))$,

$$\Gamma \cap H = P_{W_0} (\boldsymbol{G}(l) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_l}) \cap H$$

$$= P_{W_0} (\boldsymbol{G}(k) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_l}) \cap H$$

$$= P_{W_0} (\boldsymbol{G}(k) \cap H\boldsymbol{K_k})$$

$$= P_{V_0} (\boldsymbol{G}(k) \cap H\boldsymbol{K_k}) = \Gamma',$$

as needed.

Next, we construct congruence subgroups of Γ . Let v_1 be a place of k where it holds that $K_{v_1} = \mathbf{G}(\mathcal{O}_v) \cong \tilde{\mathbf{G}}(\mathcal{O}_v)$. Moreover, we want v_1 to be inert in the extension to l, and let w_1 be the place of l over it. By Chebotarev's density theorem, there are infinitely many such v_1 .

Notice that we have a $(\text{mod } w_1)$ -homomorphism $G(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}) \to G(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$. This map is onto, since the group $G(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1}) \cong \tilde{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$ is generated by its unipotent elements, which may be lifted to $G(\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$.

As $P_{w_1}(\boldsymbol{G}(l) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_l}) \subset \boldsymbol{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$, we have a homomorphism $p_{w_1} : \Gamma \to \boldsymbol{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$. Similarly, we have a homomorphism $p'_{v_1} : \Gamma' \to \boldsymbol{G}(\mathcal{O}_{v_1}/\pi_{v_1}\mathcal{O}_{v_1})$.

Now, choose the "congruence subgroups"

$$\Gamma(w_1) = \ker p_{w_1} \lhd \Gamma$$

$$\Gamma'(v_1) = \ker p'_{v_1} \lhd \Gamma'.$$
(3.2)

The split group \tilde{G} is a Chevalley group, which implies that its size over a finite field \mathbb{F} (over which it is defined) satisfies:

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{G}}\left(\mathbb{F}\right) = \Theta\left(|\mathbb{F}|^{\dim G}\right).$$

Since v_1 is inert in the extension, $|\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1}| = |\mathcal{O}_{v_1}/\pi_{v_1}\mathcal{O}_{v_1}|^{[l:k]}$. Therefore, since $\mathbf{G} \cong \tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ in our case,

$$|G(\mathcal{O}_{v_1}/\pi_{v_1}\mathcal{O}_{v_1})| = O\left(|G(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1})|^{1/[l:k]}\right).$$
 (3.3)

Lemma 3.5. The maps p_{w_1} and p'_{v_1} are onto, so

$$\Gamma/\Gamma(w_1) \cong \boldsymbol{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$$

 $\Gamma'/\Gamma'(v_1) \cong \boldsymbol{G}(\mathcal{O}_{v_1}/\pi_{v_1}\mathcal{O}_{v_1})$.

Proof. Let $K'_{w_1} = \ker (\mathbf{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}) \to \mathbf{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1}/\pi_{w_1}\mathcal{O}_{w_1}))$, which is a finite index group of $K_{w_1} = \mathbf{G}(\mathcal{O}_{w_1})$, and therefore compact open. Let $\mathbf{K}'_{l} = \prod_{w \in W_0} \{\mathrm{id}\} \times K'_{w_1} \times \prod_{w \notin W_0 \cup \{w_1\}} K_w$. Notice that $\Gamma(w_1) = P_{W_0}(\mathbf{G}(l) \cap G\mathbf{K}'_{l})$.

By the strong approximation theorem $G(l)GK'_{l} = G(\mathbb{A}_{l})$. Therefore, for every $k \in K_{w_{1}}$ there is $\gamma \in G(l)$ and $g \in G$ such that $k \in \gamma gK'_{l}$. This implies that $\gamma \in G(l) \cap GK_{l}$, so $P_{W_{0}}(\gamma) \in \Gamma$. Finally, $p_{w_{1}}(P_{W_{0}}(\gamma)) = P_{w_{1}}(\gamma) = kK'_{w_{1}}$, so $p_{w_{1}}$ is onto as needed.

The claim for p'_{v_1} is similar, by choosing

$$K'_{v_1} = \ker \left(\boldsymbol{G} \left(\mathcal{O}_{v_1} \right) \to \boldsymbol{G} \left(\mathcal{O}_{v_1} / \pi_{v_1} \mathcal{O}_{v_1} \right) \right)$$

= $K_{v_1} \cap K'_{w_1}$

and
$$\mathbf{K'_k} = \prod_{v \in V_0} \{ \mathrm{id} \} \times K'_{v_1} \times \prod_{v \in V_0 \cup \{v_0\}} K_v.$$

Lemma 3.6. $\Gamma(w_1) \cap H = \Gamma'(v_1)$.

Proof. Continuing the notations of the last proof $\Gamma(w_1) = P_{W_0}(G(l) \cap GK'_l)$, and

$$\Gamma(w_{1}) \cap H = P_{W_{0}}\left(\boldsymbol{G}\left(l\right) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_{l}'}\right) \cap H$$

$$= P_{W_{0}}\left(\boldsymbol{G}\left(k\right) \cap G\boldsymbol{K_{l}'}\right) \cap H$$

$$= P_{W_{0}}\left(\boldsymbol{G}\left(k\right) \cap H\boldsymbol{K_{k}'}\right) \cap H$$

$$= P_{V_{0}}\left(\boldsymbol{G}\left(k\right) \cap H\boldsymbol{K_{k}'}\right)$$

$$= \Gamma'\left(v_{1}\right).$$

We can finally state the precise form of Theorem 1.10.

Theorem 3.7. Let (G, H) be a good pair as above, Γ as in Equation (3.1), and $\Gamma(w_1) \triangleleft \Gamma$ as in Equation (3.2). Then $\Gamma \cap H = \Gamma'$ is a cocompact lattice in H, and for $\Gamma'(v_1) = \Gamma(w_1) \cap H$ it holds that

$$\left[\Gamma':\Gamma'\left(v_{1}\right)\right]=O\left(\left|\Gamma:\Gamma\left(w_{1}\right)\right|^{1/\left[l_{0}:k_{0}\right]}\right).$$

Therefore, if W_0 contains only non-Archimedean places and K is a maximal compact open subgroup of G and $K_H = H \cap K$ is the corresponding compact open subgroup of H,

$$\left|\Gamma'(v_1)\backslash H/K_H\right| = O\left(\left|\Gamma(w_1)\backslash G/K\right|^{1/[l_0:k_0]}\right).$$

Proof. Almost all of the theorem was proven above, except for the last part. It holds that

$$|\Gamma \backslash G/K| [\Gamma : \Gamma(w_1)] |\Gamma \cap K|^{-1} \le |\Gamma(w_1) \backslash G/K| \le |\Gamma \backslash G/K| [\Gamma : \Gamma(w_1)].$$

Since $\Gamma \backslash G/K$ and $\Gamma \cap K$ are finite (this is where we use the fact that W_0 has no Archimedean places),

$$|\Gamma(w_1) \backslash G/K| = \Theta([\Gamma : \Gamma(w_1)])$$

The arguments for Γ' are the same.

The last part is therefore a consequence of the first part of the theorem.

4 Applications of the Closed Orbit Method

In this section we explain how the arguments of the last section apply to groups defined by quaternion algebras and division algebras, which will then give us interesting lattices in SL_n .

4.1 Closed Orbits in Division Algebras

Let A be a division algebra over a global field k. For simplicity, we assume that k is a function field and the degree n of A is a prime.

Since we assume that n is prime, over any completion k_v , $A\left(k_v\right)$ is either a division algebra, in which case we say that A ramifies at v (alternatively, we say that A_{k_v} ramifies), or isomorphic to $M_n\left(k_v\right)$, in which case we say that A splits or is unramified at v (alternatively, we say that A_{k_v} splits). The Albert-Brauer-Hasse-Noether Theorem implies that given any subset of places $v_1, ..., v_m$, we may choose A that will ramify only at a subset of $v_1, ..., v_m$, and may choose $A\left(k_{v_1}\right), ..., A\left(k_{v_{m-1}}\right)$ as we want up to isomorphism $A\left(k_{v_m}\right)$ will be determined by the others).

Now let l be a separable field extension of k. Given a place v of k and a place w of l over it, it holds that $A(l_w)$ will be split if and only if it is possible to embed l_w in $A(k_v)$. We will restrict ourselves to quadratic extensions, and recall that n is prime. In this case:

- 1. If $n \neq 2$ then $A(l_w)$ splits if and only if $A(k_v)$ splits.
- 2. If n = 2:
 - (a) If $A(k_v)$ splits, then $A(l_w)$ splits.
 - (b) If $A(k_v)$ ramifies, then it holds that $A(l_w)$ ramifies if and only if v splits in the extension from l to k (i.e, w is not the only place over v).

Now consider the semisimple algebraic group G defined over k by

$$G(k) = \{ \alpha \in A(k) : N(\alpha) = 1 \}.$$

The group G is connected, simply connected and absolutely almost simple. The split form of G is SL_n . The group G is anisotropic over a k_v (resp. l_w) if and only if the algebra A ramifies at k_v (resp. l_w). The group G is anisotropic over k (resp. l) if and only if A has a ramified place k_v (resp. l_w).

We conclude that Definition 3.3 will hold if G has a ramified place over l, and if V_0 contains a place where A splits. Let us focus on the case when $V_0 = \{v_0\}$ is a split place with a single place w_0 above v_0 (so $W_0 = \{w_0\}$). Then $G = G(l_{w_0}) \cong \operatorname{SL}_n(l_{w_0})$ and $H = G(k_{v_0}) \cong \operatorname{SL}_n(k_{v_0})$. We with to show that Theorem 3.7 applies to those cases.

Proposition 4.1. The pairs

$$(G, H) = \left(\operatorname{SL}_n\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left((t)\right)\right), \operatorname{SL}_n\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left(\left(t^2\right)\right)\right) \right)$$
or $(G, H) = \left(\operatorname{SL}_n\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}\left((t)\right)\right), \operatorname{SL}_n\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left((t)\right)\right) \right)$

are good, i.e., satisfy Definition 3.3.

Proof. We start with the second case, as it is simpler. We first let $k = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ and choose the place $v_0 = t$, so $k_0 = k_{v_0} = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$. We let $l = \mathbb{F}_{q^2}(t)$ be the quadratic constant field extension of k. Then v_0 is inert in the extension, i.e., have a unique place $w_0 = t$ over it, with $l_{w_0} = l_0 = \mathbb{F}_{q^2}(t)$. We then let A be a division algebra of degree n which splits at k_0 but ramifies over k and remains ramified over k. It is easy to see that it can happen – for k0 we may choose any division algebra over k1 (it will remain a division algebra over k1), and for k2 we need to make sure that k4 will also ramify at some place k2 corresponding to a polynomial of even degree, since k3 will then split in the extension, and k4 will ramify for every place k3 above k4, so will be ramified over k5. Therefore, all the conditions of Definition 3.3 hold for k6 and k7 such that k8 will be ramified over k9. Therefore, all the conditions of Definition 3.3 hold for k9 such that k9 such that

For the first case, we let $k = \mathbb{F}_q(s)$, and let l be a separable quadratic extension of k which ramifies at the place $v_0 = s$. For char $q \neq 2$ we may take $l = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ for $t^2 = s$. For char q = 2 this extension no longer works since it is not separable. Instead, we may look at the extension $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$ which we get by adding a root to $u^2 + su + 1 = 0$. Once again, we choose a division algebra A such that it splits at k_0 and ramifies over k and over l. It is simple to see that such A exists. In any case, if w_0 is the place of l over v_0 , then locally we have $l_0 = \mathbb{F}_q((t))$ for some t such that $t^2 = s$. Therefore, $G = G(l_0) \cong \mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t)))$ and $H = G(k_0) \cong \mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q((t^2)))$, as needed.

4.1.1 The Explicit Construction

Let us explain how the abstract arguments are related to the explicit construction. For char $q \neq 2$, let $k = \mathbb{F}_q(s)$ and let $l = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ for $t^2 = s$. Let $v_0 = s$, $w_0 = t$, so $k_0 = \mathbb{F}_q(s)$ and $l_0 = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$. We choose the algebra A_2 with the basis 1, i, j, ij, and the relations $i^2 = \epsilon, j^2 = s - 1, ij = -ji$, for $\epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q$

non-square. The algebra A_2 ramifies at the places 1/s and s-1. Over t the algebra A_2 ramifies at t-1 and t+1, and is isomorphic to the algebra A_1 defined by the relations $i^2 = \epsilon, j^2 = \frac{t-1}{t+1}, ij = -ji$. After a change of variables $u = \frac{2t}{2+1}$, the algebra A_1 is isomorphic to the algebra A over $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$, defined by $i^2 = \epsilon, j^2 = u - 1, ij = -ji$. Moreover, the place t corresponds to the place t under this isomorphism. Let $\mathbf{G} = \operatorname{PGL}_1(A_2)$.

Notice that G is not simply connected, but most of the general argument of Section 3 applies to it, with some modifications we discuss below.

Since A_2 over $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$ and A over $\mathbb{F}_q(u)$ are isomorphic, the construction of Morgenstern in [22] allows us to find a compact open subgroup $\mathbf{K}_l \subset \mathbf{G}\left(\mathbb{A}_l^{\{t\}}\right)$, such that $\Gamma = P_{\{t\}}\left(\mathbf{G}\left(l\right) \cap G\mathbf{K}_l\right) \leq G = \mathbf{G}\left(l_0\right)$ is a lattice in G which acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits building of G, and all of its congruence subgroups define Ramanujan graphs.

The arguments of Section 3 (when extended to the non-simply connected case) say that $\Gamma' = \Gamma \cap H \leq H = G(k_0)$ is a lattice in H. As a matter of fact, a direct calculation shows that Γ' is generated by $\gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_{q+1}^2$, where $\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_{q+1}$ are the generators of Γ , and more importantly, Γ' acts simply transitively on the Bruhat-Tits building of H. This implies that the map $F_{\Gamma} : \Gamma' \setminus B_H \to \Gamma \setminus B_G$ is injective, since both sets are of size 1. Finally, we take congruence covers $\Gamma(w_1)$ and $\Gamma'(v_1)$ as above, to get a map from a small graph to a large graph.

The fact that G is not simply connected mainly implies that the exact behavior of $\Gamma/\Gamma(w_1)$ and $\Gamma'/\Gamma(v_1)$ is not known from the general arguments. To understand it we need some more work that is done by Morgenstern in [22] and the calculations of Section 2.

4.2 The Bruhat-Tits Building

In this subsection, let $l_0 = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ and we quickly recall the Bruhat-Tits building of $SL_n(l_0)$ and its Ramanujan quotients. When n = 2, the Bruhat-Tits building is a tree, and a good reference is [13]. For n > 2, see [14] and the references therein.

It is simpler to work with $G = \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$, as the buildings are the same, and $\operatorname{SL}_n(l_0)$ acts on the building by its image $\operatorname{PSL}_n(l_0) \subset \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$ which is of index n. Let $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{F}_q[[t]]$ be the ring of integers of l_0 . Let $K = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathcal{O})$, which is a maximal compact open subgroup of G.

The Bruhat-Tits building B_G of G is a clique complex whose vertices can be identified with G/K (in general, we identify a building with its vertices). The set G/K can also be described as all the \mathcal{O} submodules of l_0^n , up to homothety (multiplication by a scalar from l_0). There is an edge between two modules $[M] \neq [M']$ if they have representatives M, M' such that $tM \subsetneq M' \subsetneq M$. There is a bijection between equivalence classes of modules [M] and matrices $A_M \in M_n$ ($\mathbb{F}_q[t]$), of the form

$$A_{M} = \begin{pmatrix} t^{m_{1}} & f_{1,2}(t) & f_{1,n}(t) \\ 0 & t^{m_{2}} & f_{2,n}(t) \\ 0 & 0 & t^{m_{n}} \end{pmatrix},$$

such that:

- 1. $m_1 \ge 0, ..., m_n \ge 0$, for $1 \le i < j \le n$.
- 2. $f_{i,j} \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ satisfies deg $f_{i,j} < m_i$ for i < j.
- 3. $\gcd(t^{m_1},...,t^{m_n},f_{1,2}(t),...f_{n-1,n}(t))=1.$

The bijection is given by sending a matrix A to the module generated by its columns. We identify a module with the corresponding matrix by this bijection.

Each module M has a color $c(M) \in [n] = \{0, ..., n-1\}$. It is uniquely determined by $\det(A_M) = t^{c(M)+nz}$, for some $z \in \mathbb{N}$. For every color i, the subgroup $\mathrm{PSL}_n(l_0) \leq G$ acts transitively on vertices of color i.

Let M_0 be the standard module corresponding to the identity matrix I, or the identity coset in G/K. Its neighbors are the modules which corresponding to the set $N = \{A_{M_1}, ..., A_{M_t}\}$ of matrices A_{M_i} as above, which further satisfy:

- 1. $0 \le m_1, ..., m_n \le 1$.
- 2. If $m_i = 1$ then $f_{i,j} = 0$ for i < j.
- 3. $A \neq I$.

Finally, for every module M, its neighbors correspond to matrices of the form $\{A_M A : A \in N\}$, up to dividing by a power of t which is the gcd of all the elements.

Given a lattice $\Gamma \leq \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$, we may look at the quotient space $\Gamma \backslash B_G$. Assuming that Γ does not intersect a big enough neighborhood of the identity (and, in particular, is torsion-free), $\Gamma \backslash B_G$ is a simplicial complex. In the case n=2 this is a (q+1)-regular graph. We again refer to [14] for a discussion of such complexes. If we have a lattice $\Gamma' \leq \operatorname{SL}_n(l_0)$ we may project it to $\Gamma \leq \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$, and then, assuming that Γ' is torsion free, $|\Gamma' \backslash \operatorname{SL}_n(l_0) / \operatorname{SL}_n(\mathcal{O})| = \frac{1}{n} |\Gamma \backslash B_G|$, since $\operatorname{SL}_n(l_0)$ preserves the color of the vertices of B(G).

For the lattices Γ constructed from division algebras in this work, for every compact subset $S \subset G$, it holds that as w_1 changes, eventually $\Gamma(w_1) \cap S \in \{e\}$. This implies that $\Gamma(w_1) \setminus B_G$ will indeed eventually be a simplicial complex. A far deeper fact is that over function fields, $\Gamma(w_1) \setminus B_G$ is a *Ramanujan complex* – see [17, 6, 11] for a general discussion of this concept, and specifically [6, Section 7] for a proof (here we implicitly use the assumption that n is prime).

4.3 Vertex Expansion

Consider $l_0 = \mathbb{F}_q((t))$ and its subfield $k_0 = \mathbb{F}_q((t^2))$. Let $\mathcal{O}_{k_0} = \mathbb{F}_q[[t^2]]$, $\mathcal{O}_{l_0} = \mathbb{F}_q[[t]]$ be the corresponding rings of integers.

We let $G = \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$, $H = \operatorname{PGL}_n(k_0)$, and $K = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathcal{O}_{l_0})$, $K_H = H \cap K = \operatorname{PGL}_n(\mathcal{O}_{k_0})$ the maximal compact open subgroups. We have an action of H on Bruhat-Tits building B_G of G, and since the stabilizer of the standard module is K_H , we have a map (on vertices) $F: B_H \to B_G$. See Figure 1.1 for a special case of this embedding for n = 2 and q = 2.

We consider the set N defining the neighbors in B_G and the set N_H defining the neighbors in B_H , as in Subsection 4.2. There is a bijection $T: N \to N_H$, with $A \in N$ corresponding to $T(A) \in N_H$ where t is replaced by $s = t^2$. Let $A \in N$ with diagonal $(t^{m_1}, ..., t^{m_n})$, then we get T(A) by simply replacing the diagonal with $(t^{2m_1}, ..., t^{2m_n})$. Moreover, if $m_j = 1$ then the j-th column is 0 outside the diagonal, and this implies that T(A) = AD(A), where $D(A) = \text{diag}(t^{m_1}, ..., t^{m_n})$ is the diagonal matrix with the same diagonal as A. Notice that $D(A) \in N$. Therefore, if $A_M \in B_H$, then $F(A_M T(A)) = F(A_M) AD(A)$. This discussion may be concluded as follows:

Lemma 4.2. Let $M \in F(B_H) \subset B_G$, and let M' = MA, $A \in N$ be a neighbor of M in B_G . Then there is $M'' = M'D(A) = MT(A) \in F(B_H)$, another neighbor of M' from $F(B_H)$.

Therefore, $F(B_H) \subset B_G$ has no unique neighbors (i.e., neighbors that are connected to it by a single edge).

We may now prove Theorem 1.4:

Proof of Theorem 1.4. By Proposition 4.1, Theorem 3.7, and the discussion in Subsection 4.2, there is a lattice $\Gamma \leq \operatorname{PGL}_n(l_0)$ of arbitrarily large covolume, such that if we denote $Y' = \Gamma \cap H \backslash B_H$, $X = \Gamma \backslash B_G$, then $|Y'| = O(|X|^{1/2})$ and X and Y' are Ramanujan complexes.

There is also a natural map $F_{\Gamma}: Y' \to X$. It holds that $Y = F_{\Gamma}(Y')$ is the image of $F(B_H)$ under the projection $B_G \to \Gamma \backslash B_G = X$. By Lemma 4.2 $F(B_H)$ has no unique neighbors in B_G . Therefore, the set Y – the projection of $F(B_H)$ to X – has no unique neighbors.

We may also complete the non-explicit part proof of Theorem 1.1 (i.e., for even q).

Proof of Theorem 1.1. For n=2 the complex X of Theorem 1.4 is a graph, and there is a subset $Y \subset X$, $|Y| = O(\sqrt{|X|})$, such that each $y \in N(Y)$ is connected to at least two vertices of Y. Then we can show that every $y \in N(Y)$ is connected to precisely 2 vertices of N(Y), as in the proof of Lemma 2.8 (see also the proof of Theorem 1.7 in Subsection 4.4).

4.4 Edge Expansion

Let us now take n = 2, $l_0 = \mathbb{F}_{q^2}((t))$ and $G = \operatorname{PGL}_2(l_0)$. Let $k_0 = \mathbb{F}_q((t))$, and $H = \operatorname{PGL}_2(k_0)$, which is a subgroup of G.

The Bruhat-Tits building B_G of G, which is described in the previous section, is a $(q^2 + 1)$ regular tree. Explicitly, the set N determining the neighbors contains $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} t & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ for $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$.

The subgroup H acts on B_G , and the stabilizer of the standard module M_0 is $H \cap PGL_2\left(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}\left[[t]\right]\right) = PGL_2\left(\mathbb{F}_q\left[[t]\right]\right)$, which is a maximal compact open subgroup of H. We therefore have a map $F: B_H \to B_G$. Let N_H be the set determining the neighbors in B_H , which contains $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} t & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ for $a \in \mathbb{F}_q$. Notice that $N_H \subset H$. Moreover, for $A \in N_H$ and $M \in B_H$ described by its matrix, F(MA) = F(M)A. In other words, adjacent vertices in B_H are sent to adjacent vertices in B_G (see Figure 1.2 for a special case).

The discussion above implies:

Lemma 4.3. Every vertex in $F(B_H) \subset B_G$ is connected to q+1 other vertices of $F(B_H)$.

We may now prove Theorem 1.7 from the introduction:

Proof of Theorem 1.7. By Proposition 4.1, Theorem 3.7, and the discussion in Subsection 4.2, there is a lattice $\Gamma \leq \operatorname{PGL}_2(l_0)$ of arbitrarily large covolume, such that if we denote $Y' = \Gamma \cap H \setminus B_H$, $X = \Gamma \setminus B_G$, then $|Y'| = O(|X|^{1/2})$ and X and Y' are Ramanujan graphs.

There is also a natural map $F_{\Gamma}: Y' \to X$. By Lemma 4.3, every vertex of $Y = F_{\Gamma}(Y')$ is connected to at least q+1 other vertices of Y, as $Y = F_{\Gamma}(Y)$ is the image of F(Y) by the projection map $B_G \to \Gamma \backslash B_G$.

We claim that Y is (q+1)-regular. This also implies that Y is a quotient of Y', and is therefore a Ramanujan graph.

If Y is not (q+1)-regular, there is a vertex $y \in Y$ that is connected to more than (q+1) other elements of Y. We next use symmetry as in the proof of Lemma 2.8. Notice that the group $\Gamma(w_1) \setminus \Gamma$ acts on X, and its subgroup $\Gamma'(v_1) \setminus \Gamma'$ (using the natural embedding $\Gamma'(v_1) \setminus \Gamma' \to \Gamma(w_1) \setminus \Gamma$) preserves Y. Therefore, there are $\Theta(|\Gamma'(v_1) \setminus \Gamma'|) = \Theta(|Y|)$ vertices in Y that are connected to more than q+1 vertices. Since the minimal degree of Y is q+1, the average degree is greater than $q+1+\delta$ for some explicit $\delta>0$. This is impossible by Kahale's Theorem 1.6.

5 Expansion Using Moore's Bound

In this section, we reprove Kahale's lower bounds about vertex and edge expansion in Ramanujan graphs. While the bounds we get are a bit weaker than Kahale's, we believe that they are easier to understand.

First, let us set notations. An undirected graph is a finite set X of vertices, a finite set E of directed edges, two maps $s,t \colon E \to X$, and an involution $\overline{\cdot} \colon E \to E$, satisfying the conditions $s(\overline{e}) = t(e), \overline{e} \neq e$. We allow multiple edges and self loops, but no "half edges". For $x \in X$ we let $d_x = \#\{e \in E : s(e) = x\}$ be the degree of x. We assume that X is connected.

A non-backtracking path of length l in X is a sequence $(e_1, ..., e_l)$ of edges, with $t(e_i) = s(e_{i+1})$ and $e_{i+1} \neq \overline{e_i}$. We denote by $M_l(X)$ the number of non-backtracking paths of length l in X.

Given a subset $S \subseteq X$, we have an induced graph on S, containing all the edges $e \in E$ with $s(e), t(e) \in S$. Therefore, $M_l(S)$ is well-defined. We also denote by $M_l(S, X)$ the non-backtracking paths $(e_1, ..., e_l)$ in X such that $s(e_1), t(e_l) \in S$.

Our proofs uses the results of [3], whose main technical result is:

Theorem 5.1 ([3]). Let X be an undirected graph with m directed edges, and assume that X has no vertices of degree 1. Let

$$\tilde{d} - 1 = \left(\prod_{e \in E} \left(d_{s(e)} - 1\right)\right)^{1/m} = \left(\prod_{x \in X} \left(d_x - 1\right)^{d_x}\right)^{1/m},$$

i.e., the geometric average over the edges of the degree of their source vertex minus 1. Then

$$M_l(X) \ge m\left(\tilde{d}-1\right)^{l-1}$$
.

While the number \tilde{d} is somewhat complicated, it holds:

Lemma 5.2. Assume that X is a graph without vertices of degree 1. Then:

- 1. ([3]) $\tilde{d} \geq \overline{d}$, where \overline{d} is the average degree of X.

 Moreover, for every C > 0 and $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $\tilde{d} \leq \overline{d} + \delta$ and $\overline{d} \leq C$, then there is an integer $d \geq 2$ satisfying $\left| \tilde{d} d \right| \leq \epsilon$, and all but ϵn of the vertices of X are of degree d.
- 2. If X is bipartite, $\tilde{d} 1 \ge \sqrt{(\overline{d}_L 1)(\overline{d}_R 1)}$, where \overline{d}_L (resp. \overline{d}_R) is the average degree of the left side (resp. the right side) of X.

Remark 5.3. A similar "moreover" argument is true for the bipartite case, but we will not need it.

Proof. For the first claim, it holds that $m = \overline{d}n$. Therefore $\tilde{d} - 1 = \left(\prod_{x \in X} (d_x - 1)^{d_x}\right)^{1/\overline{d}n}$. So

$$\log\left(\tilde{d}-1\right) = \frac{1}{\overline{d}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in X} d_x \log\left(d_x - 1\right) \ge \frac{1}{\overline{d}} \overline{d} \log\left(\overline{d} - 1\right) = \log\left(\overline{d} - 1\right),$$

where the inequality follows from the convexity of $d \log (d-1)$ for $d \geq 2$. The "moreover" part follows from the strict convexity of $d \log (d-1)$ for $d \geq 2$.

For the second claim, let n_L , n_R be the number of vertices in X_L , X_R – the right and left sides of X. Then

$$n_L \overline{d}_L = n_R \overline{d}_R = m/2.$$

Therefore

$$\tilde{d} - 1 = \left(\prod_{x \in X} (d_x - 1)^{d_x}\right)^{1/\overline{d}n}$$

$$= \left(\prod_{x \in X_L} \left((d_x - 1)^{d_x} \right)^{1/\overline{d}_L n_L} \right)^{1/2} \left(\prod_{x \in X_R} \left((d_x - 1)^{d_x} \right)^{1/\overline{d}_R n_R} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\leq \sqrt{(\overline{d}_L - 1)(\overline{d}_R - 1)},$$

where the inequality is as in the proof of the first claim.

We combine the lower bound on $M_l(S)$ coming from Moore's bound, with a standard upper bound from spectral graph theory, which we now describe.

We let $L^2(X)$ be the set of functions $f: X \to \mathbb{C}$, with the usual inner product. The adjacency operator $A: L^2(X) \to L^2(X)$ is defined as

$$(Af)(x) = \sum_{e \in E. t(e) = x} f(s(e)).$$

The operator A is self-adjoint and therefore diagonalizable, with real eigenvalues and an orthogonal basis of eigenvectors. If X is d-regular, the constant function is an eigenvector of A, with eigenvalue d. If X is bipartite, A has the eigenvalue -d, corresponding to the eigenvector that is equal to a constant C on one part, and is equal to -C on the other part. If X is connected, as we assume, those are the only eigenvectors with eigenvalues of absolute value d. We say that X is Ramanujan if every eigenvalue λ of A satisfies either $|\lambda| = d$ or $|\lambda| \le 2\sqrt{d-1}$. This bound is optimal for large graphs by the Alon-Boppana Theorem ([23]).

Lemma 5.4. Let X be a d-regular Ramanujan graph with n vertices, and let $S \subset X$ be a subset. For l such that $|S| (d-1)^{l/2} \leq n$, the number $M_l(S,X)$ of non-backtracking paths in X that start and end in S satisfies that $M_l(S,X) \leq |S| (l+3) (d-1)^{l/2}$.

Proof. We define a length l non-backtracking version of the adjacency operator, $A_l:L^2(X)\to L^2(X)$,

$$(A_l f)(x) = \sum_{(e_1,...,e_l),t(e_l)=x} f(s(e_1)),$$

where the sum is over the non-backtracking paths in X. Notice that it holds that $M_l(S, X) = \langle A_l \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_S \rangle$, where $\mathbb{1}_S$ is the characteristic function of S.

Since the graph is d-regular, there is a simple relation between the A_l -s, given by

$$A = A_1$$

 $A^2 = dI + A_2$
 $AA_l = (d-1) A_{l-1} + A_{l+1}$ $l > 1$.

The relations imply that A_l is a polynomial in A, given explicitly for $l \geq 2$ by

$$A_{l} = (d-1)^{l/2} \left(\left(1 - (d-1)^{-1} \right) U_{l} \left(\frac{A}{2\sqrt{d-1}} \right) + 2 (d-1)^{-1} T_{l} \left(\frac{A}{2\sqrt{d-1}} \right) \right),$$

where T_l and U_l are the Chebyshev polynomials of the first and second kind, given by $U_l(\cos \theta) = \frac{\sin((n+1)\theta)}{\sin \theta}$, $T_l(\cos \theta) = \cos(n\theta)$. In particular, if $f \in L^2(X)$ is an eigenvector of A, f is also an eigenvector of A_l . If the eigenvalue of A is bounded in absolute value by $2\sqrt{d-1}$, the corresponding eigenvalue of A_l is bounded in absolute value by $(l+1)(d-1)^{l/2}$.

Returning to the relation $M_l(S,X) = \langle A_l \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_S \rangle$, first assume that X is non-bipartite. We write $\mathbb{1}_S = \frac{|S|}{n} \mathbb{1}_X + r$, with $r \perp \mathbb{1}_X$ and $||r||_2^2 \leq ||\mathbb{1}_S||_2^2 = |S|$. Notice that $A_l \mathbb{1}_X = d(d-1)^l \mathbb{1}_X$. By the Ramanujan assumption and the fact that A_l is self-adjoint,

$$|\langle A_l r, r \rangle| \le (l+1) (d-1)^{l/2} ||r||_2^2$$

Then

$$M_{l}(S,X) = \langle A_{l} \mathbb{1}_{S}, \mathbb{1}_{S} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{|S|^{2}}{n^{2}} \langle A_{l} \mathbb{1}_{X}, \mathbb{1}_{X} \rangle + \langle A_{l} r, r \rangle$$

$$\leq \frac{|S|^{2}}{n^{2}} n d (d-1)^{l} + (l+1) (d-1)^{l/2} ||r||_{2}^{2}$$

$$\leq |S| \left(\frac{|S| d (d-1)^{l-1}}{n} + (l+1) (d-1)^{l/2} \right)$$

$$\leq |S| \left(\frac{d}{d-1} + l + 1 \right) (d-1)^{l/2}.$$

We conclude by noting that $\frac{d}{d-1} \leq 2$. The case of bipartite graphs is similar.

We can compare $M_l(S,X)$ with $M_l(S)$, as it is obvious that

$$M_l(S,X) \geq M_l(S)$$
.

The case of edge expansion essentially follows directly:

Theorem 5.5. Let X be a d-regular Ramanujan graph and let $S \subset X$ be a subset with $|S| (d-1)^{l/2} \le |X|$. Then the average degree of the graph S induced from X is bounded by $\left(1 + O\left(\frac{\ln(l+3)}{l}\right)\right) \sqrt{d-1} + 1$.

Moreover, assuming |S| = o(|X|), for $\delta > 0$ small enough, there is $\epsilon > 0$, such that if the average degree of |S| is larger than $\sqrt{d-1} + 1 + \epsilon$, then $\sqrt{d-1} + 1$ is an integer and at most $\delta |S|$ of the vertices of |S| have a degree different from $\sqrt{d-1} + 1$.

Proof. We may assume that the average degree of S is at least 2. We then may remove from S vertices of degree 1 without lowering the average degree, until all the degrees are at least 2. Notice that if we remove more than o(|S|) of the vertices, then the average degree grows by a constant.

By Theorem 5.1,

$$M_l(S) \ge |S| \, \overline{d} \left(\tilde{d} - 1 \right)^{l-1} \ge |S| \left(\tilde{d} - 1 \right)^l (d-1)^{-1},$$

where d is as in the theorem.

On the other hand, by Lemma 5.4,

$$M_l(S, X) \le |S|(l+3)(d-1)^{l/2}$$
.

Therefore,

$$\tilde{d} - 1 \le (l+3)^{1/l} (d-1)^{1/2} = (1 + O(\ln(l+3)/l)) (d-1)^{1/2}.$$

So by Lemma 5.2, $\overline{d} \le \tilde{d} \le (1 + O(\ln(l+3)/l))\sqrt{d-1} + 1$.

The "moreover" part follows from the "moreover" part of Lemma 5.2.

The vertex expansion result is similar, but one should be a bit more careful when handling vertices of degree 1.

Theorem 5.6. Let X be a d-regular Ramanujan graph and let $S \subset X$ be a subset with $|S| (d-1)^l \le |X|$. Let N(S) be the neighbors of |S|. Then

$$|N(S)| \ge \frac{d}{2}|S|\left(1 - O\left(\frac{\ln(l+3)}{l}\right)\right).$$

Moreover, assuming that |S| = o(|X|), for every $\epsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$, such that for |X| large enough, if $|N(S)| \leq \frac{d}{2} |S| (1 + \delta)$ then all but at most $\epsilon |N(S)|$ of the vertices of |N(S)| are connected to exactly 2 vertices of S.

Proof. We assume that X is bipartite and $S \subset X$ is contained in one of the sides. See the proof of Theorem 2 in [10] for this simple reduction.

Decompose $N(S) = M \cup M'$, where M are vertices that are connected to two or more vertices in S and M' are vertices that are connected to exactly one vertex in S. We may assume that every vertex in S is connected to at least 2 vertices in M. Otherwise, assuming the ratio |N(S)|/|S| is smaller than d-1, when we remove a vertex that is connected to one or zero vertices in M, we decrease S by 1 and decrease N(S) by at least d-1, so we decrease the ratio |N(S)|/|S|.

Consider the bipartite graph Y on (S, M), where S is on the left side and M is on the right side. Let m = |M|, m' = |M'|, s = |S|. Let e be the number of directed edges from S to M (notice that it is half of the edges in Y, which contain edges from M to S as well).

It holds that

$$m' = ds - e$$
$$|N(S)| = m + m'$$
$$= m + ds - e.$$

The average left degree of Y is $\overline{d}_L = \frac{e}{s}$ and the average right degree is $\overline{d}_R = \frac{e}{m}$. Write $d' = \sqrt{(\overline{d}_L - 1)(\overline{d}_R - 1)} + 1$.

By Theorem 5.1 and Lemma 5.2,

$$M_l(Y) \ge |Y| (d'-1)^{l-1}$$
.

However, by Lemma 5.4,

$$M_l(Y) \le |Y|(l+3) (d-1)^{l/2}$$
...

Denote $\epsilon = \ln(l+3)/l$. Then we get, as before,

$$d' - 1 \le \sqrt{d - 1} \left(1 + O\left(\epsilon\right) \right)$$

Therefore

$$\sqrt{\frac{e}{s} - 1} \sqrt{\frac{e}{m} - 1} \le \sqrt{d - 1} \left(1 + O\left(\epsilon\right) \right)$$

Simplifying,

$$\frac{e}{m} \le 1 + \frac{(1+O(\epsilon))(d-1)s}{e-s} = \frac{e+(d-2)s}{e-s} (1+O(\epsilon))$$

$$m \ge \frac{e(e-s)}{e+(d-2)s} (1-O(\epsilon))$$

$$m - e \ge -\frac{e(d-1)s}{e+(d-2)s} (1+O(\epsilon)).$$

Since $e \leq ds$, we get

$$m - e \ge -\frac{d}{2}s\left(1 + O\left(\epsilon\right)\right).$$

and since |N(S)| = m - e + ds, we deduce

$$|N(S)| \ge \frac{d}{2}s(1 - O(\epsilon)).$$

The proof also says that if $e \leq \alpha ds$ for some fixed $\alpha < 1$, then

$$|N(S)| \ge \beta \frac{d}{2} s (1 - O(\epsilon))$$

for some $\beta > 1$ depending on α . Therefore, if we assume that |S| = o(|N|) and $|N(S)| \le \frac{d}{2}s(1+o(1))$, then $e \ge ds(1-o(1))$. Therefore, all but o(s) of the vertices of N(S) are connected to at least 2 vertices of S, and by the bound on the size of N(S), all but o(s) of the vertices of N(S) are connected to exactly 2 vertices of S.

Remark 5.7. The proofs of Kahale give slightly better bounds for both edge and vertex expansions, where $O(\ln(l+3)/l)$ is replaced by O(1/l).

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