



Research Paper

## Tetravalent one-regular graphs of order $p^2q^2$

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**Abstract.** A graph is called one-regular if its full automorphism group acts regularly on the set of arcs. In this paper, we classify all connected one-regular graphs of valency 4 of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q$  are prime numbers. We also prove that all such graphs are Cayley graphs.

**Keywords:** one-regular graph, symmetric graph, Cayley graph

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### 1 Introduction

Gardiner and Praeger in 1994 constructed 4-valent one-regular graphs of prime order, see [6]. Let  $p$  and  $q$  be two primes. Every tetravalent one-regular graph of order  $p$  or  $pq$  or  $p^2$  is a circulant graph and all of them have been classified in [15]. Furthermore, in [5, 17] the authors classified tetravalent one-regular graphs of order  $2pq$  and  $4p^2$ . Here, we study the tetravalent one-regular graphs of order  $p^2q^2$  and show all of them have Cayley structure. We prove that in such Cayley graphs either the  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$  is cyclic and then the regarded group is abelian or  $q$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$  is cyclic. The presentation of a group of order  $p^2q^2$  can be found in [12]. All graphs in this paper are undirected, finite, and connected without loops or multiple edges. For a graph  $\Gamma$ , we use  $V(\Gamma)$ ,  $E(\Gamma)$  and  $Aut(\Gamma)$  to denote its vertex set, edge set and its full automorphism group, respectively. A graph  $\Gamma$  is said to be vertex-transitive if  $Aut(\Gamma)$  acts transitively on  $V(\Gamma)$ . For a positive integer  $s$ , an  $s$ -arc of

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$\Gamma$  is an  $(s + 1)$ -tuple  $(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_s)$  of vertices such that  $\{v_{i-1}, v_i\} \in E(\Gamma)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s$  and  $v_{i-1} \neq v_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq s - 1$ . In particular, a 1-arc is called an arc for short and a 0-arc is a vertex. If  $X \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and  $X$  is transitive on  $s$ -arcs of  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma$  is called a  $(X, s)$ -arc transitive graph. In addition, if  $X$  is not transitive on the set of  $(s + 1)$ -arcs of  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma$  is called a  $(X, s)$ -transitive graph. If  $X = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ , then  $(X, s)$ -arc transitive and  $(X, s)$ -transitive graphs are called  $s$ -arc transitive graphs and  $s$ -transitive graphs, respectively. A  $(X, 1)$ -arc transitive graph is called symmetric. A graph is said to be one-regular if its automorphism group acts regularly on the set of its arcs.

Let  $G$  be a permutation group on  $\Omega$  and  $\alpha \in \Omega$ . The stabilizer  $G_\alpha$  is the subgroup of  $G$  fixing the point  $\alpha$ . The group  $G$  is called semi-regular on  $\Omega$  if  $G_\alpha = 1$ , for every  $\alpha \in \Omega$  and regular if  $G$  is transitive and semi-regular. Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $S$  be a symmetric subset of  $G$  ( $1 \notin S = S^{-1} = \{g^{-1} | g \in S\}$ ). The Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  has vertex set  $V(\Gamma) = G$  and edge set  $E(\Gamma) = \{\{g, sg\} | g \in G, s \in S\}$ . For every element  $g \in G$ , the map  $\rho_g$  given by  $x \mapsto xg$ ,  $x \in G$ , is a permutation on  $G$  and the set of all such permutations is called the right regular representation of  $G$  denoted by  $\mathcal{R}(G)$ . One can see that  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  is a regular subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  isomorphic with  $G$ . It is a well-known fact that  $\Gamma$  is connected if and only if  $G = \langle S \rangle$ , that is,  $S$  generates  $G$ . In general, it is a very difficult task to find the full automorphism group of a graph. Although, we know that a Cayley graph is vertex-transitive, in general it is difficult to determine whether it is edge-transitive or arc-transitive. Suppose that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = \{\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G), \alpha(S) = S\}$ . Obviously,  $\mathcal{R}(G) \rtimes \text{Aut}(G, S) \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ . Let  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ , according to [16], we have  $N_A(\mathcal{R}(G)) = \mathcal{R}(G) \rtimes \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . The Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  is said to be normal if the right regular representation  $\mathcal{R}(G)$  of  $G$  is normal in  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and in this case,  $\mathcal{R}(G) \trianglelefteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  or equivalently  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) = \mathcal{R}(G) \rtimes \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . The Cayley graph  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  is said to be normal symmetric if  $N_A(\mathcal{R}(G))$  acts transitively on the set of arcs.

## 2 Main results

In this section, we determine all tetravalent one-regular Cayley graphs of order  $p^2q^2$ . If  $q = 2$ , then all tetravalent one-regular graphs of order  $4p^2$  have been determined in [5] and we can conclude the following result.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $p \neq 2$  be a prime and  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  be tetravalent symmetric Cayley graph on groups of order  $4p^2$ . Then  $\Gamma$  is 1-transitive. Moreover, if  $\Gamma$  is also one-regular, then  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph.*

**Lemma 2.2.** [14] *Every transitive abelian group is regular.*

**Lemma 2.3.** [14] *Suppose  $G$  is a permutation group on  $\Omega$  and  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ , where  $p$  is a prime. Let  $w \in \Omega$ , if  $p^m$  divides the length of the  $G$ -orbit containing  $w$ . Then  $p^m$  also divides the length of the  $P$ -orbit containing  $w$ .*

For a finite group  $G$ , the product of all nilpotent normal subgroups of  $G$  is called the Fitting subgroup of  $G$  denoted by  $\text{Fit}(G)$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** [13] *If  $G$  is solvable group, then  $\text{Fit}(G) \neq 1$  and  $C_G(\text{Fit}(G)) \leq \text{Fit}(G)$ .*

We recall that  $O_p(G)$  is the unique largest normal  $p$ -subgroup of the finite group  $G$ , where  $p$  is a prime number and it can be found by taking the intersection of all of the  $p$ -Sylow subgroups of  $G$ . If a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of a finite group  $G$  has a normal  $p$ -complement, then  $G$  is called  $p$ -nilpotent. The set of all  $p$ -Sylow subgroups of  $G$  is denoted by  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** [4] *Let  $G$  be a group acting transitively on a set  $\Omega$  and  $H \triangleleft G$ . Then the group  $H$  has at most  $|G : H|$  orbits and if the index  $|G : H|$  is finite, then the number of orbits of  $H$  divides  $|G : H|$ .*

**Theorem 2.6.** (i) [2] *A graph  $\Gamma$  is isomorphic to a Cayley graph on a group  $G$  if and only if its automorphism group has a subgroup isomorphic to  $G$  acting regularly on the vertex set of  $\Gamma$ .*

(ii) [2] *A circulant graph is vertex-transitive. A vertex-transitive graph with a prime number of vertices must be a circulant graph.*

(iii) [15] *Every tetravalent one-regular graph of order  $p^2$  is a circulant graph.*

Suppose  $\Gamma$  is a symmetric graph and consider the transitive subgroup  $X$  of  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ . Let  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $X$ . Then the quotient graph  $\Gamma_N$  is the graph with orbits of  $N$  as its vertices and two vertices are adjacent if there is an edge between these two orbits in  $\Gamma$ . If further the valency of  $\Gamma_N$  equals the valency of  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma$  is called a regular cover of  $\Gamma_N$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** [6] *Let  $\Gamma$  be symmetric graph of valency 4 and  $X \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  be arc-transitive. If  $N \triangleleft X$ , then one of the following cases holds,*

1.  $N$  is transitive on  $V(\Gamma)$ ;
2.  $\Gamma$  is bipartite and  $N$  acts transitively on each part of the bipartition;
3.  $N$  has  $r \geq 3$  orbits on  $V(\Gamma)$ , the quotient graph  $\Gamma_N$  is a cycle of length  $r$ , and  $X$  induces the full automorphism group  $D_{2r}$  of  $\Gamma_N$ ;
4.  $N$  has  $r \geq 5$  orbits on  $V(\Gamma)$ ,  $N$  acts semi-regularly on  $V(\Gamma)$ , the quotient graph  $\Gamma_N$  is a tetravalent connected  $X/N$ -symmetric graph and  $\Gamma$  is a regular cover of  $\Gamma_N$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a one-regular tetravalent graph of an odd order  $m$ . Assume  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ . Then the following cases holds,*

1. *If  $A$  has a subgroup of order  $m$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph;*
2. *If  $A_v \cong C_4$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph;*
3. *If  $A_v \cong C_2 \times C_2$  and  $3 \nmid m$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph.*

**Proof.** (1) Let  $A$  has a subgroup  $G$  of order  $m$ . By the orbit-stabilizer theorem for the vertex  $v$ , we have  $|orb_G(v)| = |G : G_v|$ . On the other hand,  $A$  acts regularly on the arc set of  $\Gamma$ , hence  $|A_v| = 4$ . But  $G_v$  divides  $m$  and so the fact that  $m$  is odd implies  $G_v \cong \langle 1 \rangle$ . Hence,  $G$  acts regularly on the vertex set of  $\Gamma$ . Applying Theorem 2.6 yields  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph.

(2) By [11, Theorem 7.51],  $A$  has a normal subgroup of order  $m$  and by the Case 1,  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph.

(3) Suppose  $H \cong C_2 \times C_2 \cong A_v$  is a 2-Sylow subgroup of  $A$ . It is not difficult to see that  $|Aut(H)| = (2^2 - 1)(2^2 - 2) = 6$  and there is an embedding  $N_A(H)/C_A(H) \hookrightarrow Aut(H)$ . Obviously,  $|N_A(H)/C_A(H)|$  divides  $|A|$ . Since  $H$  is abelian,  $H < C_A(H)$  and then  $2 \nmid |N_A(H)/C_A(H)|$ . On the other hand,  $(3, |A|) = 1$ , and thus  $N_A(H) = C_A(H)$ . Hence, by Burnside's Theorem [10, Theorem 6.17]  $H$  has a normal complement in  $A$ . This means that  $A$  has a normal subgroup of order  $m$  and by Case 1,  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $\Gamma$  be a one-regular tetravalent graph of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are prime. Assume  $A = Aut(\Gamma)$ , then the following cases hold,

- (1) If  $A$  has a subgroup of order  $p^2q^2$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph;
- (2) If  $A_v \cong C_4$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph;
- (3) If  $A_v \cong C_2 \times C_2$  and  $q \neq 3$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a normal Cayley graph;
- (4) If  $A_v \cong C_2 \times C_2$ ,  $q = 3$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph.

**Proof.** The Cases 1-3 have been discussed in Theorem 2.8. For the Case 4, let  $P$  be a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $A$ . Then  $n_p = 1 + kp \mid 36$ , and if  $p \neq 5, 11, 17$ , we can conclude that  $n_p = 1$ ; therefore,  $P \triangleleft A$ . Now, let  $Q$  be a  $q$ -Sylow subgroup of  $A$ . Hence,  $PQ \leq A$  and  $|PQ| = p^2q^2$  and the proof is similar to Case 1. For  $p = 11$  or  $p = 17$ , by [9, Theorem 1.37] and [9, Corollaries 1.39, 1.40], we have  $|O_p| = p$  or  $p^2$ . If  $|O_p| = p^2$ , then  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph. If  $|O_p| = p$ , then the embedding  $N_A(O_p)/C_A(O_p) \cong A/C_A(O_p) \hookrightarrow Aut(O_p) \cong C_{p-1}$  yields that  $|C_A(O_p)| \geq p^2q^2$  and  $C_A(O_p)$  has a subgroup of order  $p^2q^2$ . This means that  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph. For  $p = 5$ , let  $PQ \not\leq A$ . Then  $P$  and  $Q$  are not normal subgroups of  $A$ . By using a Gap program, there is only one group of the order  $9 \times 25 \times 4 = 900$  with the above conditions which is isomorphic with  $A \cong A_5 \times C_{15}$ , a contradiction. So, all one-regular graphs of order 225 have Cayley structures.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are prime numbers and  $\Gamma = Cay(G, S)$  be a Cayley graph of valency 4. If  $\Gamma$  is an  $(X, 1)$ -arc transitive, where  $G \leq X \leq Aut(\Gamma)$ , then one of the following cases holds:

- 1.  $G$  is normal in  $X$ ,  $X_1 \leq D_8$  and  $|X_1| \geq 4$ ;
- 2. There is a subgroup  $P < X$  such that  $P \triangleleft G$  and  $\Gamma$  is a cover of  $\Gamma_P$ ;
- 3.  $X$  has a unique minimal normal subgroup  $N \cong C_p^2$  such that

- (a)  $G = N \rtimes R \cong C_p^2 \rtimes C_9$ ;
- (b)  $X = N \rtimes ((H \rtimes R).C_2) \cong C_p^2 \rtimes ((C_2^2 \rtimes C_9).C_2)$  and  $X_1 = H.C_2 \cong (C_2 \times C_2).C_2$ ;
- (c)  $NH \cong D_{2p} \times D_{2p}$ ;
- (d)  $H \rtimes R = C_2^2 \rtimes C_9 = \langle a, b, c \mid a^2 = b^2 = c^9 = 1, ab = ba, c^{-1}ac = ab, c^{-1}bc = a \rangle$ ;
- (e)  $X/(NH) \cong D_{18}$ .

**Proof.** By [8, Theorem 1.1] the proof is straightforward.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.11.** Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are prime numbers and  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  be a Cayley graph of valency 4.

- (i) If  $\Gamma$  is one-regular,  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and  $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ , then the following cases hold,
  - (a)  $A \cong GA_1$  and  $A_1 \cong C_4$  or  $C_2 \times C_2$ ,
  - (b)  $P \triangleleft A$  and  $A$  is solvable,
  - (c) If  $A_1 \cong C_4$  then  $G \triangleleft A$ ,
  - (d) If  $A_1 \cong C_2 \times C_2$  and  $q \neq 3$  then  $G \triangleleft A$ .
- (ii) If  $\Gamma$  is one-regular,  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and  $P \cong C_{p^2}$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $G$  is an abelian group.

**Proof.** (i) Since  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph, the proof of part (a) is clear. For the next one, we know that  $P \triangleleft G$ , hence  $G \subseteq N_A(P)$  and  $|A : N_A(G)| = 1 + kp \mid 4$ , ( $p > 3$ ) which implies that  $N_A(P) = A$ . It is clear  $P$  and  $A/P$  are solvable, hence  $A$  is solvable and the proof of part (c) is a result of [11, Theorem 7.51]. There is a similar proof for the part (d), as we have done in the Case (3) of Theorem 2.8.

(ii) We know that  $P \cong C_{p^2} \leq \text{Fit}(A)$ , hence  $\text{Fit}(A) \neq \langle 1 \rangle$ . We prove that  $\text{Fit}(A) = G$  which yields that  $G$  is abelian. Suppose  $\text{Fit}(A) \neq G$ , then only one of the following possibilities holds:

$\text{Fit}(A) = C_{p^2}$ ,  $\text{Fit}(A) = C_{qp^2}$ ,  $\text{Fit}(A) = C_{2qp^2}$ ,  $\text{Fit}(A) = C_{2p^2}$ ,  $|\text{Fit}(A)| = 4p^2$ ,  $|\text{Fit}(A)| = 4qp^2$ . We prove that all of them are impossible. By Theorem 2.4,

$$N_A(\text{Fit}(A))/C_A(\text{Fit}(A)) = A/\text{Fit}(A).$$

Hence if  $\text{Fit}(A) = C_{p^2}$ , then

$$N_A(\text{Fit}(A))/C_A(\text{Fit}(A)) \cong A/\text{Fit}(A) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\text{Fit}(A)) \cong C_{p(p-1)}.$$

Therefore,  $A/\text{Fit}(G)$  is abelian. On the other hand,  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph, hence two Cases 1, 2 in Theorem 2.7 for  $N = \text{Fit}(G)$  are impossible. Let  $\Gamma_N$  be the quotient graph of  $\Gamma$  relative to the orbits of  $N$  and  $K$  be the kernel of  $A$  acting on  $V(\Gamma_N)$ . By Lemma 2.3, the orbits of  $N$  are of length  $p^2$ . Thus  $|V(\Gamma_N)| = q^2$ ,  $N \leq K$ , and  $A/K$  acts transitively on arcs of  $\Gamma_N$ . For the Case 3 in Theorem 2.7, we have  $\Gamma_N$  is a cycle of length  $q^2$  and hence  $A/K \cong D_{2q^2}$ , which yields

$|K| = 2p^2$ . Since  $A/K$  is a subgroup of  $A/P$ , it follows that  $A/P$  is a non-abelian group, a contradiction. For the Case 4 of Theorem 2.7,  $\Gamma_N$  is  $A/N$ -symmetric graph, hence  $A/N$  is transitive on the vertices of  $\Gamma_N$  and also is abelian. Therefore, by Lemma 2.2,  $A/N$  acts regularly on the vertices of  $\Gamma_N$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $\text{Fit}(G) \not\cong C_{p^2}$ . Similarly, the other cases are impossible. Suppose  $|\text{Fit}(A)| = 4p^2$  or  $4qp^2$ . Since  $N \leq K$ , where  $K$  is the kernel of  $A$  acting on  $V(\Gamma_N)$ .  $\Gamma_N$  is a symmetric graph of valency 2 or 4 and by Theorem 2.7,  $A/K$  acts transitively on arcs of  $\Gamma_N$ . Then  $2 \mid |A/K|$ , which is clearly impossible, because  $|A| = 4p^2q^2$ . Therefore,  $|\text{Fit}(A)| = p^2q^2$  and so  $G$  is an abelian group.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are prime numbers, and let  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  be a connected Cayley graph of valency 4. Assume  $\Gamma$  is one-regular,  $A = \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$  and  $P \cong C_p \times C_p \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$ . Then  $G \cong (C_p \times C_p) \rtimes C_{q^2}$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $\Gamma$  is a Cayley graph, two Cases 1, 2 in Theorem 2.7 for  $N \cong C_p \times C_p \cong P$ , are impossible. By Theorem 2.5, the number of orbits of  $N$  on  $G$  are  $q^2$ . Let  $\Gamma_N$  be the quotient graph of  $\Gamma$  relative to the orbits of  $N$  and  $K$  be the kernel of  $A$  acting on  $V(\Gamma_N)$ . Thus  $|V(\Gamma_N)| = q^2$ ,  $N \leq K$  and  $A/K$  acts transitively on the arcs of  $\Gamma_N$ . For the Case 3 in Theorem 2.7,  $\Gamma_N$  is a cycle of length  $q^2$  and hence  $A/K \cong D_{2q^2}$ , which yields that  $|K| = 2p^2$ . Since  $C_{q^2} \leq A/K$ , and  $A/K$  is a subgroup of  $A/P$ , it follows that the  $q$ -Sylow subgroup of  $A$  (and  $G$ ) is cyclic. Now, for the Case 4, let  $\Gamma_P$  be the quotient graph of  $\Gamma$  relative to the orbits of  $P$ . By Lemma 2.3, the orbits of  $N$  are of length  $p^2$ . Thus  $|V(\Gamma_P)| = q^2$  and  $A/P$  acts transitively on the arcs of  $\Gamma_P$ . Now, by Theorems 2.6(ii) and 2.6(iii),  $\Gamma_P$  is a circulant graph and so it is a Cayley graph on an abelian group. Hence the  $q$ -Sylow subgroup of  $A$  (and  $G$ ) is cyclic; therefore,  $G \cong (C_p \times C_p) \rtimes C_{q^2}$ .  $\square$

### 3 Trivalent normal symmetric Cayley graphs on group of order $p^2q^2$

Let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^2q^2$  ( $p > q$ ) with generating set  $S = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$ . Suppose  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  is a Cayley graph, then an automorphism of  $\text{Aut}(G, S)$  satisfies in one of the following rules:

$$\alpha : \begin{cases} a \mapsto b^{-1} \\ b \mapsto a \end{cases}, \alpha^2 : \begin{cases} a \mapsto a^{-1} \\ b \mapsto b^{-1} \end{cases}, \alpha^3 : \begin{cases} a \mapsto b \\ b \mapsto a^{-1} \end{cases}, \beta : \begin{cases} a \mapsto b \\ b \mapsto a' \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha \circ \beta : \begin{cases} a \mapsto a \\ b \mapsto b^{-1} \end{cases}, \alpha^2 \circ \beta : \begin{cases} a \mapsto b^{-1} \\ b \mapsto a^{-1} \end{cases}, \alpha^3 \circ \beta : \begin{cases} a \mapsto a^{-1} \\ b \mapsto b \end{cases}, i : \begin{cases} a \mapsto a \\ b \mapsto b \end{cases}$$

It is not difficult to see that  $\alpha^4 = \beta^2 = i$ ,  $\beta^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ \beta = \alpha^3$  and so  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \cong D_8$ . In other words, we can conclude the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^2q^2$  with the symmetric generating subset  $S = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(G, S) \leq \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \cong D_8$ .*

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  be a normal symmetric Cayley graph of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are primes and  $S = \{a, a^{-1}, b, b^{-1}\}$ , ( $a \neq b$ ). Then  $o(a) \neq p, p^2, q^2$ .*



**Proof.** Suppose  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  is a normal symmetric Cayley graph of order  $p^2q^2$  ( $p > q$ ) where  $G = \langle a, b \rangle$  and  $S = \{a, a^{-1}, b, b^{-1}\}$ , ( $a \neq b$ ). It is a well-known fact that  $\text{Aut}(G, S)$  is a 2-group. Since  $|S| = 4$ , we conclude that  $|\text{Aut}(G, S)| = 2$  or 4 or 8. On the other hand,  $\Gamma$  is normal symmetric which yields  $C_4$  or  $C_2 \times C_2$  is a subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(G, S)$ . First, suppose that  $C_4 \cong \langle \alpha \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S)$  and necessarily  $o(a) = o(b)$ . Since  $|G| = p^2q^2$ , one of the following cases holds:

**Case 1.**  $o(a) = o(b) = p$ . Suppose  $H = \langle a \rangle$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle$ , then  $H \leq P$  and  $K \leq P$  ( $P \in \text{Syl}_p(G)$  is normal) which implies that  $\langle H \cup K \rangle \subseteq P$ . This yields  $G = \langle a, b \rangle \subseteq P$ , a contradiction.

**Case 2.**  $o(a) = o(b) = p^2$  and suppose  $H = \langle a \rangle$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle$ , then  $H = P$ ,  $K = P$  and thus  $\langle H \cup K \rangle = P = G$ , a contradiction.

**Case 3.**  $o(a) = o(b) = q^2$ , put  $H = \langle a \rangle$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle$ , then  $H, K \in \text{Syl}_q(G)$  and then there exists  $x \in G$  such that  $H = K^x$ . Now, according to [12], we have the following subcases:

**Subcase 1.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} C_{p^2} \cong \langle c, d \mid c^{q^2} = d^{p^2} = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^r \rangle$ , which yields (without loss of generality)  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^i} = d^{-i}cd^i$ . It implies that  $\alpha(b) = \alpha(c^{d^i}) = \alpha(c)^{\alpha(d^i)} = a$ . Hence  $(c^{-1})^{d^i\alpha(d^i)} = (c^{-1})^{d^i} = c$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 2.**

$$\begin{aligned} G &\cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p) \\ &\cong \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda}, de = ed \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

which yields  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^ie^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^ie^j$ . Hence  $\alpha(b) = \alpha(c^{d^ie^j}) = \alpha(c)^{\alpha(d^ie^j)} = a$  and so  $(c^{-1})^{d^ie^j\alpha(d^ie^j)} = (c^{-1})^{d^ie^m} = c$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 3.**

$$\begin{aligned} G &\cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p) \\ &\cong \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda}, de = ed \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{e^j} = e^{-j}ce^j$ . In other words,  $\alpha(b) = \alpha(c^{e^j}) = \alpha(c)^{\alpha(e^j)} = a$ . Hence  $(c^{-1})^{e^j\alpha(e^j)} = (c^{-1})^{e^m} = c$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 4.**

$$\begin{aligned} G &\cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p) \\ &\cong \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda^l}, de = ed \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and we can verify that  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^ie^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^ie^j$ . Similarly, we have  $\alpha(b) = \alpha(c^{d^ie^j}) = \alpha(c)^{\alpha(d^ie^j)} = a$  and so  $(c^{-1})^{d^ie^j\alpha(d^ie^j)} = (c^{-1})^{d^ne^m} = c$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 5.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p)$

$\cong \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}e^{\gamma N}, c^{-1}ec = d^{\gamma}e^{\lambda}, de = ed, \lambda^2 - \gamma^2 N \neq 0, N \neq n^2, \lambda + \gamma\sqrt{N} \neq 1 \rangle$ . Again, we can verify that  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^ie^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^ie^j$  and thus  $\alpha(b) = \alpha(c^{d^ie^j}) = \alpha(c)^{\alpha(d^ie^j)} = a$ . Consequently,  $(c^{-1})^{d^ie^j\alpha(d^ie^j)} = (c^{-1})^{d^ne^m} = c$ , a contradiction.

Now, suppose  $C_2 \times C_2 \cong \langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \subseteq \text{Aut}(G, S)$ , then  $\text{Aut}(G, S)$  acts transitively on  $S$ . Hence, in this case, the Cayley graph  $\Gamma$  is normal symmetric. Again, we can consider the following cases:

**Case 1.**  $o(a) = o(b) = p$ .

**Case 2.**  $o(a) = o(b) = p^2$ . For both of them the proof is similar to that of in Subcase 4.

**Case 3.**  $o(a) = o(b) = q^2$ , put  $H = \langle a \rangle$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle$  then  $H, K \in \text{Syl}_q(G)$  and hence  $H = K^x$  for some  $x \in G$ . Now, according to [12], we have the following subcases:

**Subcase 1.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} C_{p^2} = \langle c, d \mid c^{q^2} = d^{p^2} = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^r \rangle$ , where  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^i} = d^{-i}cd^i$ . It implies that  $\beta(d) = d^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2 \circ \beta(d) = d^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d) = d$ . Hence  $\alpha^2(c^{-1}dc) = \alpha^2(d^r)$ , so  $c^2d = dc^2$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 2.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p)$

$= \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda}, de = ed, \lambda^q = 1 \rangle$ . Hence  $Z(G) = \langle c^q \rangle \cong C_q$ , where  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^i e^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^i e^j$ . This implies that  $\beta(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2 \circ \beta(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d^i e^j) = d^i e^j$ . Hence  $\alpha^2(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = \alpha^2((d^i e^j)^{\lambda})$ , so  $c^2(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)c^2$  and  $a^2 = b^2$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 3.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p)$

$= \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda}, de = ed, \lambda^q = 1 \rangle$ . Hence  $Z(G) = \langle c^q, d \rangle \cong C_{pq}$ , where  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{e^j} = e^{-j}ce^j$ . In other words,  $\beta(e^j) = (e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2 \circ \beta(e^j) = (e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(e^j) = e^j$ . Hence  $\alpha^2(c^{-1}e^j c) = \alpha^2((e^j)^{\lambda})$ , so  $c^2(e^j) = (e^j)c^2$  and  $a^2 = b^2$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 4.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p)$

$= \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}, c^{-1}ec = e^{\lambda^t}, de = ed, \lambda^q = 1 \rangle$ . Hence  $Z(G) = \langle c^q \rangle \cong C_q$ , where  $a = c$ ,  $b = c^{d^i e^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^i e^j$ . Consequently,  $\beta(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $(\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d^i e^j) = d^i e^j$ . Hence  $\alpha^2(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = \alpha^2((d^i)^{\lambda}(e^j)^{\lambda^t})$ ,  $(\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)((d^i)^{\lambda}(e^j)^{\lambda^t})$ ,  $\beta(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = \beta((d^i)^{\lambda}(e^j)^{\lambda^t})$ , so  $\beta(d) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(d) = d^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d) = d$ ,  $\beta(e) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(e) = e^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(e) = e$ , so  $c^2d = dc^2$  and  $c^2e = ec^2$ , a contradiction.

**Subcase 5.**  $G \cong C_{q^2} \rtimes_{\varphi} (C_p \times C_p)$

$= \langle c, d, e \mid c^{q^2} = d^p = e^p = 1, c^{-1}dc = d^{\lambda}e^{\gamma N}, c^{-1}ec = d^{\gamma}e^{\lambda}, de = ed, \lambda^2 - \gamma^2 N \neq 0, N \neq n^2, \lambda + \gamma\sqrt{N} \neq 1 \rangle$ , where  $a = c, b = c^{d^i e^j} = d^{-i}e^{-j}cd^i e^j$  and so  $\beta(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $(\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(d^i e^j) = (d^i e^j)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d^i e^j) = d^i e^j$ . Thus  $\alpha^2(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = \alpha^2(d^{i\lambda+j\gamma}e^{j\lambda+i\gamma N})$ ,  $(\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(d^{i\lambda+j\gamma}e^{j\lambda+i\gamma N})$ ,  $\beta(c^{-1}d^i e^j c) = \beta(d^{i\lambda+j\gamma}e^{j\lambda+i\gamma N})$ , so  $\beta(d) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(d) = d^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(d) = d$ ,  $\beta(e) = (\alpha^2 \circ \beta)(e) = e^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha^2(e) = e$ , so  $c^2d = dc^2$  and  $c^2e = ec^2$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

### 3.1 symmetric Cayley graphs on abelian groups of order $p^2q^2$

Here, we determine the full automorphism group of symmetric tetravalent Cayley graphs  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ , where  $G$  is an abelian group of order a square product of two primes. To do this, first notice that there are only four abelian groups of order  $p^2q^2$ . In the case that  $q = 2$ , in [7] all tetravalent symmetric graphs of order  $4p^2$  have been determined. In the following, we determine the automorphism group for each graph. Here, in this section,  $\alpha, \beta$  are as given in Theorem 3.1. For solving all congruence equations, we applied [3, Theorem 9.13].

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $G$  be an abelian group of order  $p^2q^2$ , where  $p > q \neq 2$  are primes with the symmetric



generating subset  $S = \{a, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}\}$  and  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$  be a symmetric Cayley graph. Then the following cases holds,

1.  $o(a) \neq p, p^2, q, q^2,$
2. If  $o(a) = pq,$  then  $G \cong C_{pq} \times C_{pq}$  and  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_{pq} \times C_{pq}) \rtimes D_8,$
3. If  $o(a) = p^2q,$  then  $G \cong C_{p^2} \times C_q \times C_q$  and  $|\text{Aut}(G, S)| = 4,$
4. If  $o(a) = pq^2,$  then  $G \cong C_{q^2} \times C_p \times C_p$  and  $|\text{Aut}(G, S)| = 4,$
5. If  $o(a) = p^2q^2,$  then  $G \cong C_{p^2q^2}$  and  $|\text{Aut}(G, S)| = 4.$

**Proof.** By [1, Theorem 1.2], we have  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong G \rtimes \text{Aut}(G, S)$  and  $G$  is an abelian group, so the proof of part 1 is clear. For the second one, we know that  $G = \langle a, b \rangle = \langle a \rangle \cdot \langle b \rangle = \langle a \rangle \times \langle b \rangle \cong C_{pq} \times C_{pq},$  then it is not difficult to see that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \cong D_8.$  Hence  $\Gamma$  is not an one-regular Cayley graph and  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_{pq} \times C_{pq}) \rtimes D_8.$

For the part 3, let  $o(a) = o(b) = p^2q, H = \langle a \rangle,$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle.$  Then  $G = \langle a, b \rangle = \langle a \rangle \cdot \langle b \rangle = HK$  and  $|G| = |HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|} = p^2q^2.$  Since  $a \neq b,$  we conclude that  $|H \cap K| = p^2.$  Suppose that  $a = xz, b = yz^i,$  where  $(i, p^2) = 1.$  Hence  $G \cong C_q \times C_q \times C_{p^2} \cong \langle x, y, z \mid x^q = y^q = z^{p^2} = 1, xy = yx, xz = zx, yz = zy \rangle = \langle a, b \mid a = xz, b = yz^i, (i, p^2) = 1 \rangle.$  Now, by a same discussion in the proof of Theorem 3.2, two following cases hold:

**Case 1.** Suppose  $\langle \alpha \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S),$  since  $\text{Aut}(G) \cong C_{p(p-1)} \times GL(2, q),$  we have  $\alpha(a) = b^{-1}$  and  $\alpha(b) = a.$  This means that  $\alpha(xz) = y^{-1}z^{-i}, \alpha(yz^i) = xz, \alpha(z) = z^{-i}, \alpha(z^i) = z, \alpha(x) = y^{-1}$  and  $\alpha(y) = x.$  Consequently,  $z^{i^2+1} = 1$  and so  $1 + i^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$  or  $p = 4k + 1.$  Finally, if  $o(a) = o(b) = p^2q,$  the Cayley graph  $\Gamma$  is symmetric if and only if  $a^{iq} = b^q, 1 + i^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$  and  $p = 4k + 1.$  Clearly,  $\text{Aut}(G, S) \cong C_4.$  Since  $\beta(a) = b$  and  $\beta(b) = a;$  it means that  $\beta(xz) = yz^i$  and  $\beta(yz^i) = xz.$  We conclude that  $z^{i^2} = z$  and so  $i^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}, (i^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}).$  Consequently,  $p^2$  divides 2, a contradiction. This means that  $\beta \notin \text{Aut}(G, S)$  and  $\Gamma$  is one-regular Cayley graph. Hence  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_q \times C_q \times C_{p^2}) \rtimes C_4.$

**Case 2.** Suppose that  $\langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S).$  In this case,  $i^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$  and it is not difficult to see that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = \langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \cong C_2 \times C_2.$  Hence  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_q \times C_q \times C_{p^2}) \rtimes (C_2 \times C_2)$  and  $\Gamma$  is one-regular graph.

For the part 4, let  $o(a) = o(b) = pq^2, H = \langle a \rangle$  and  $K = \langle b \rangle.$  Then  $G = \langle a, b \rangle = \langle a \rangle \cdot \langle b \rangle = HK$  and  $|G| = |HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|} = p^2q^2.$  Since  $a \neq b,$  we conclude that  $H \cap K = q^2.$  Suppose that  $a = xz, b = yz^i,$  where  $(i, q^2) = 1.$  Hence  $G \cong C_p \times C_p \times C_{q^2} \cong \langle x, y, z \mid x^p = y^p = z^{q^2} = 1, xy = yx, xz = zx, yz = zy \rangle = \langle a, b \mid a = xz, b = yz^i, (i, q^2) = 1 \rangle.$  Again, we consider two cases:

**Case 1.** Suppose  $\langle \alpha \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S).$  According to the structure of  $\text{Aut}(G) \cong C_{q(q-1)} \times GL(2, p),$  we have  $\alpha(a) = b^{-1}$  and  $\alpha(b) = a.$  This means that  $\alpha(xz) = y^{-1}z^{-i}$  and  $\alpha(yz^i) = xz.$  Consequently,  $\alpha(z) = z^{-i}, \alpha(z^i) = z, \alpha(x) = y^{-1}$  and  $\alpha(y) = x.$  Hence  $z^{i^2+1} = 1$  and thus  $1 + i^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{q^2}.$  Therefore, according to [12, Theorem 3] we have  $q = 4k + 1.$  Finally, if  $o(a) = o(b) = pq^2,$  the Cayley graph  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is tetravalent normal symmetric if and only if  $a^{ip} =$

$b^p$ ,  $1 + i^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{q^2}$ , where  $q = 4k + 1$ . It is not difficult to prove that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) \cong C_4$ , since  $\beta(a) = b$  and  $\beta(b) = a$ . Consequently,  $\beta(xz) = yz^i$  and  $\beta(yz^i) = xz$ . This means that  $\beta(z) = z^i$ ,  $\beta(z^i) = z$ ,  $\beta(x) = y$ , and  $\beta(y) = x$ . Thus  $z^{i^2} = z$  and so  $i^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{q^2}$ ,  $(i^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{q^2})$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\beta \notin \text{Aut}(G, S)$  and  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_p \times C_p \times C_{q^2}) \rtimes C_4$  and  $\Gamma$  is a one-regular graph.

**Case 2.** Suppose  $\langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . In this case,  $i^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$  and it is not difficult to see that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = \langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \cong C_2 \times C_2$ . Hence  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong (C_p \times C_p \times C_{q^2}) \rtimes (C_2 \times C_2)$  or  $\Gamma$  is one-regular graph.

For the last part, let  $G = C_{p^2q^2} \cong \langle a \rangle$ . Assume  $a = b^i$ , where  $(i, p^2q^2) = 1$ . Two cases hold:


**Case 1.** Suppose  $\langle \alpha \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . So  $\alpha(a) = \alpha(b^i)$  which means that  $b^{-1} = a^i$ . Consequently,  $\alpha^2(a) = \alpha^2(b^i)$  and so  $a^{-1} = b^{-i}$ . This yields  $b^{i^2+1} = 1$ , hence  $1 + i^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2q^2}$  and thus  $p = 4k + 1$ ,  $q = 4k' + 1$ . In other words,  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = C_4$ , since  $\beta \in \text{Aut}(G, S)$ , then  $a = b^i$  and  $\beta(a) = \beta(b^i)$ . Hence  $b = a^i$  yields  $a = a^{i^2}$  and so  $a^{i^2-1} = 1$ . It means that  $p^2q^2$  divides  $i^2 - 1$  and  $i^2 + 1$ , which implies that  $p^2q^2 \mid 2$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $\beta \notin \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . Hence  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong C_{p^2q^2} \rtimes C_4$  and  $\Gamma$  is one-regular graph.

**Case 2.** Suppose  $\langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \leq \text{Aut}(G, S)$ . In this case,  $i^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2q^2}$  and thus  $p = 4k + 1$ ,  $q = 4k' + 1$ . We can verify that  $\text{Aut}(G, S) = \langle \alpha^2, \beta \rangle \cong C_2 \times C_2$ . Hence  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) \cong C_{p^2q^2} \rtimes (C_2 \times C_2)$  and  $\Gamma$  is one-regular graph.  $\square$

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