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Some Identities for Enumerators of Circulant Graphs

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Abstract. We establish analytically several new identities connecting enumerators of different types of circulant graphs mainly of prime, twice prime and prime-squared orders. In particular, it is shown that the half-sum of the number of undirected circulants and the number of undirected self-complementary circulants of prime order is equal to the number of directed self-complementary circulants of the same order. Several identities hold only for prime orders p such that $(p+1)/2$ is also prime. Some conjectured generalizations and interpretations are discussed.

Keywords: cycle index, cyclic group, nearly doubled primes, Cunningham chain, self-complementary graph, regular tournament

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1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation. Identities considered in this paper connect different enumerators of circulant graphs mainly of prime, twice prime and prime-squared orders. The idea of this paper goes back to the article [10], where we counted uniformly circulants of five kinds and derived several identities. Here we consider six types of circulants: directed, undirected and oriented circulants (specified by valency or not), and self-complementary circulants of the same types. Most of the obtained identities may be called *analytical* (or formal) in the sense that they rest exclusively on the enumerative formulae and follow from special properties of the cycle indices of regular cyclic groups. It is more difficult to discover such an identity than to prove it analytically. Almost all of the identities were first revealed and conjectured based on numerical observations.

From the combinatorial point of view, the identities look rather strange. They are very simple but no structural or algebraic properties of circulants are used to derive them (with few exceptions), nor do we establish bijective proofs. The latter task is challenging although in some cases the existence of a natural bijection between participating circulants seems unlikely. Of course there may exist other combinatorial or algebraic explanations or interpretations of the identities.

Several identities hold only for a special type of prime orders p, namely, those for which $\frac{p+1}{2}$ is also prime. Such primes are familiar in number theory. Probably this is the first combinatorial context where they play a substantial role.

We cover here numerous identities that have been obtained previously and deduce about ten new ones. We deliberately represent new identities in different equivalent forms and formulate simple corollaries keeping in mind possible future generalizations and combinatorial proofs. Some of the derived identities look more elegant than the original ones.

The present paper is partially based upon the work [11] that contains detailed enumerative formulae for circulants, extensive tables and several identities. We reproduce all necessary results from it, and our exposition is basically self-contained.

1.2. Definitions. Let n be a positive integer, $\mathbb{Z}_n := \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, n-1\}$. We denote by $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$ the set of numbers in $\mathbb{Z}_n$ relatively prime to n (that is invertible elements *modulo* n). So, $|\mathbb{Z}_n^*| = \phi(n)$, where $\phi(n)$ is the Euler totient function. $Z(n)$ denotes a *regular cyclic* permutation group of order and degree n, i.e., the group generated by an n-cycle.

The *cycle index* of $Z(n)$ is the polynomial

$$\mathcal{I}_n(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{r|n} \phi(r) x_r^{n/r}, \tag{1.1}$$

where $\mathbf{x}$ stands for the sequence of variables $x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots$

The term "graphs" means both undirected and directed graphs. We consider only simple graphs, that is graphs without loops, multiple edges, or multiple arcs. An n-graph means a graph of order n, where the order means the number of vertices. We refer to Harary [9] for terminology concerning graphs.

An (undirected) edge is identified with the pair of the corresponding oppositely directed arcs. Accordingly, an undirected graph is considered to be a (symmetric) digraph. On the contrary, a digraph is *oriented* if it has no pair of oppositely directed arcs.

A circulant graph of order n, or simply a *circulant*, means a graph Γ on the vertex set $\mathbb{Z}_n$ which is invariant with respect to the cyclic permutation $(0, 1, 2, \ldots, n-1)$, i.e., if (u, v) is an edge of Γ then so is $(u+1, v+1)$. In other words, this is a Cayley graph with respect to the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}_n$. Every circulant is a regular graph of some valency r.

A circulant Γ is specified by the set $X = X(\Gamma)$ (called its *connection set*) of all vertices adjacent to the vertex 0. Γ is undirected iff X is symmetric, which means that $-X = X$, where $-X := \{-v \mid v \in X\}$. On the contrary, Γ is oriented iff X is anti-symmetric, that is, $X \cap (-X) = \emptyset$. Such a circulant is a *tournament* iff X is complete, that is, $X \cup (-X) = \mathbb{Z}_n'$, where $\mathbb{Z}_n' := \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$. The *complement* of Γ is the circulant Γ' with the connection set $X' := \mathbb{Z}_n' \setminus X$.

Regular self-complementary graphs are of valency $r = (n-1)/2$ and, thus, exist only for odd n. Moreover, an undirected self-complementary n-circulant can exist only if $4 \mid (n-1)$ since it contains $n(n-1)/4$ edges. It is easy to see that any circulant tournament is self-complementary.

Graphs are considered here up to isomorphism. We deal with the enumerators of (non-isomorphic) circulants of several types. For convenience, the type is written as the subscript. Henceforth:

- $C_{\mathrm{d}}(n)$ denotes the number of **d**irected circulant graphs;
- $C_{\mathrm{u}}(n)$ denotes the number of **u**ndirected circulant graphs;

- $C_{\mathrm{o}}(n)$ denotes the number of **o**riented circulant graphs;
- $C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)$ and $C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)$ denote the numbers of **s**elf-complementary **d**irected and **u**ndirected circulant graphs respectively;
- $C_{\mathrm{t}}(n)$ denotes the number of circulant **t**ournaments;
- $C_{\mathrm{d}}(n,r)$, $C_{\mathrm{u}}(n,r)$ and $C_{\mathrm{o}}(n,r)$ denote the corresponding numbers of circulants of order n and valency r while $c_{\mathrm{d}}(n,z)$, $c_{\mathrm{u}}(n,z)$ and $c_{\mathrm{o}}(n,r)$ are their generating functions by valency (polynomials in z):

$$c_{\mathrm{d}}(n,z) := \sum_{r\geq 0} C_{\mathrm{d}}(n,r)z^r, \quad c_{\mathrm{u}}(n,z) := \sum_{r\geq 0} C_{\mathrm{u}}(n,r)z^r,$$
$$c_{\mathrm{o}}(n,z) := \sum_{r\geq 0} C_{\mathrm{o}}(n,r)z^r.$$

Clearly

$$C_{\mathrm{d}}(n) = c_{\mathrm{d}}(n,1), \quad C_{\mathrm{u}}(n) = c_{\mathrm{u}}(n,1) \quad \text{and} \quad C_{\mathrm{o}}(n) = c_{\mathrm{o}}(n,1). \tag{1.2}$$

These quantities and the corresponding circulants are considered in more detail in [10, 11]. In particular, the following simple uniform enumerative formulae have been obtained there:

1.3 Theorem (*counting circulants of prime and twice prime order*) *For p an odd prime,*

$$\begin{aligned}
c_{\mathrm{d}}(p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=1+z^r\}_{r=1,2,\dots}}\\
c_{\mathrm{u}}(p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=1+z^{2r}\}_{r=1,2,\dots}}\\
c_{\mathrm{o}}(p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=1\}_{r\text{ even}},\ \{x_r^2:=1+2z^r\}_{r\text{ odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=2\}_{r\text{ even}},\ \{x_r:=0\}_{r\text{ odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{su}}(p) &= \mathfrak{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=2\}_{r\text{ even}},\ \{x_r:=0\}_{r\text{ odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=0\}_{r\text{ even}},\ \{x_r^2:=2\}_{r\text{ odd}}}\\
c_{\mathrm{d}}(2p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=(1+z^r)^2\}_{r=1,2,\dots}}\cdot(1+z)\\
c_{\mathrm{u}}(2p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=(1+z^{2r})^2\}_{r=1,2,\dots}}\cdot(1+z)\\
c_{\mathrm{o}}(2p,z) &= \mathfrak{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=1\}_{r\text{ even}},\ \{x_r:=1+2z^r\}_{r\text{ odd}}}.
\end{aligned}$$

2. Cycle indices of cyclic groups

2.1. There are several technical formulae connecting the cycle indices $\mathfrak{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}$ and $\mathfrak{I}_{p-1}$. They are interesting per se and will be used in the proofs of subsequent identities.

For any natural m, we set

$$m := 2^k m'$$

where m' is odd.

In the polynomial $\mathcal{I}_{2m}$ we first distinguish the terms corresponding to the divisors r with the highest possible power of 2, i.e., $k+1$:

$$\mathcal{I}_{2m}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2m}\sum_{r|2m}\phi(r)x_r^{2m/r} = \frac{1}{2m}\left(\sum_{r|m}\phi(r)x_r^{2m/r} + \sum_{r|m'}\phi(2^{k+1}r)x_{2^{k+1}r}^{m'/r}\right).$$

After easy transformations taking into account that $\phi(2^{k+1}r) = 2^k\phi(r)$ for odd r and $k \geq 0$ we obtain

2.2 Lemma

$$2\,\mathcal{I}_{2m}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}^2) + \mathcal{I}_{m'}\big(\mathbf{x}_{(k+1)}\big) \tag{2.1}$$

where $\mathbf{x}^2 := x_1^2, x_2^2, x_3^2, \ldots$ *and* $\mathbf{x}_{(k+1)} := x_{2^{k+1}}, x_{2\cdot 2^{k+1}}, x_{3\cdot 2^{k+1}} \ldots$

Now in $\mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x})$ we partition the set of divisors with respect to powers of 2:

$$\mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{m}\left(\sum_{r|m'}\phi(r)x_r^{2^k m'/r} + \sum_{i=1}^{k}\sum_{r|m'}2^{i-1}\phi(r)x_{2^i r}^{2^{k-i}m'/r}\right)$$

and we do the same for $\mathcal{I}_{2m}(\mathbf{x})$. Comparing similar terms in both formulae, we easily arrive at the following:

$$\mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{I}_{2m}(0, x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, 0, \ldots) + \frac{1}{2m}\sum_{r|m'}\phi(r)x_r^{m/r}. \tag{2.2}$$

The second summand on the right-hand side of formula (2.2) can be represented in different useful forms. First of all, it is evidently equal to $\frac{1}{2m}\sum_{\substack{r|m\\ r\,\text{odd}}}\phi(r)x_r^{m/r}$ and also to $\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{I}_m(x_1, 0, x_3, 0, x_5, 0, \ldots)$. Hence

$$\mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{I}_{2m}(0, x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, 0, \ldots) + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{I}_m(x_1, 0, x_3, 0, x_5, 0, \ldots). \tag{2.3}$$

Every term in $\mathcal{I}_m$ contains only one variable. Therefore

$$\mathcal{I}_m(x_1, 0, x_3, 0, x_5, 0, \ldots) = \mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{I}_m(0, x_2, 0, x_4, 0, x_6, 0, \ldots).$$

Hence by (2.3) we have

2.3 Lemma

$$2\,\mathcal{I}_{2m}(0, x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, 0, \ldots) = \mathcal{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) + \mathcal{I}_m(0, x_2, 0, x_4, 0, x_6, 0, \ldots), \tag{2.4}$$

that is,

$$2\,\mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\mathbf{y})|_{\{y_r:=0\}_{r\text{ odd}},\ \{y_r:=x_{r/2}\}_{r\text{ even}}} = \mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) + \mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{y})|_{\{y_r:=0\}_{r\text{ odd}},\ \{y_r:=x_r\}_{r\text{ even}}}.$$

Now $\mathfrak{I}_m(x_1, 0, x_3, 0, x_5, 0, \ldots) = 2\,\mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\sqrt{x_1}, 0, \sqrt{x_3}, 0, \sqrt{x_5}, 0, \ldots)$. Therefore by (2.3),

$$\mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{I}_{2m}(0, x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, 0, \ldots) + \mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\sqrt{x_1}, 0, \sqrt{x_3}, 0, \sqrt{x_5}, 0, \ldots). \tag{2.5}$$

Since the non-zero variables in both right-hand side summands alternate, one may join them into a single cycle index. This transformation gives rise to the following expression:

2.4 Lemma

$$\mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\sqrt{x_1}, x_1, \sqrt{x_3}, x_2, \sqrt{x_5}, x_3, \ldots). \tag{2.6}$$

In other words, $\mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\mathbf{y})|_{\{y_r^2:=x_r\}_{r\text{ odd}},\ \{y_r:=x_{r/2}\}_{r\text{ even}}}$.

Finally we need one further formula. Substituting (2.5) into (2.4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{I}_{2m}(0, x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, \ldots) = {} & \mathfrak{I}_{2m}(\sqrt{x_1}, 0, \sqrt{x_3}, 0, \sqrt{x_5}, \ldots) \\ & + \mathfrak{I}_m(0, x_2, 0, x_4, 0, x_6, \ldots).\end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

3. Known identities

3.1. Let $p > 3$ be a prime such that $q = \frac{p+1}{2}$ is also prime. Then by Klin–Liskovets–Pöschel [10],

$$c_{\mathrm{u}}(p, z) = c_{\mathrm{d}}\left(\frac{p+1}{2}, z^2\right), \tag{3.1}$$

that is, $C_{\mathrm{u}}(p, 2r) = C_{\mathrm{d}}(\frac{p+1}{2}, r)$, $r \geq 0$, and

$$C_{\mathrm{su}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}\left(\frac{p+1}{2}\right). \tag{3.2}$$

These equalities follow directly from Theorem 1.3 and are in fact the first formal (i.e., analytically proved) identities for enumerators of circulants.

We note that

$$p - 1 = 2(q - 1),$$

which explains the particular role of such primes in our considerations.

It follows from (3.1) that

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{d}}\left(\frac{p+1}{2}\right). \tag{3.1$'$}$$

As a matter of fact, these identities are valid for $p = 3$ as well.

3.2. If $p > 3$ is a prime such that $q = \frac{p+1}{2}$ is also prime, then

$$2c_{\mathrm{o}}(p, z) = c_{\mathrm{o}}(p+1, z) + 1. \tag{3.3}$$

Proof (cf. [11]): Identity (3.3) follows directly from Theorem 1.3 (the third and ninth formulae) and from the polynomial equality

$$2\,\mathfrak{I}'_{2m}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{I}'_m(\mathbf{x}^2) + 1$$

for an arbitrary m where $\mathfrak{I}'_m(\mathbf{x}) := \mathfrak{I}_m(\mathbf{x})|_{\{x_r:=1\}_{r\ \mathrm{even}}}$. This equality is a particular case of expression (2.1) since $\mathfrak{I}_m(1, 1, 1, \ldots) = 1$. Here we put $2m := p - 1$ (hence $m = q - 1$). □

Putting $z := 1$ in (3.3) we obtain

$$2C_{\mathrm{o}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{o}}(p+1) + 1. \tag{3.3$'$}$$

3.3. According to [10],

$$C_{\mathrm{su}}(n) = 0 \tag{3.4}$$

and

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n) = C_{\mathrm{t}}(n) \tag{3.5}$$

if $n = p$ or p^2 and $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$.

Next, combining (3.5) with (3.2) we obtain

$$C_{\mathrm{su}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{t}}\left(\frac{p+1}{2}\right) \tag{3.6}$$

if both p and $\frac{p+1}{2}$ are primes and $p \equiv 5 \pmod 8$.

3.4. For any prime p,

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) + C_{\mathrm{su}}(p). \tag{3.7}$$

Since tournaments and undirected self-complementary circulants are particular cases of directed self-complementary circulants (hence in general $C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n) \geq C_{\mathrm{t}}(n) + C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)$), equality (3.7) has a simple interpretation: any directed self-complementary circulant graph of prime order is either anti-symmetric (a tournament) or symmetric (an undirected graph). This beautiful claim was first established by Chia–Lim [4] by means of simple algebraic arguments. But in view of Theorem 1.3 (the fourth, fifth and sixth formulae), identity (3.7) for odd p is a direct consequence of formula (2.7): merely substitute 2 for all variables $x_1, x_2, x_3, \ldots$ (and (3.7) is trivial for $p = 2$).

3.5. According to Fronček–Rosa–Šiňaň [8] (see also [1]), undirected self-complementary circulants of order n exist if and only if all prime divisors p of n are congruent to 1 modulo 4. Hence (3.4) holds if there is a prime $p \mid n,\ p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$.

3.6. For composite orders, directed self-complementary circulants that are neither tournaments nor undirected graphs do exist but are comparatively rare. They are called *mixed*. The least suitable order is 15: $C_{\mathrm{sd}}^{\mathrm{mixed}}(15) := C_{\mathrm{sd}}(15) - C_{\mathrm{su}}(15) - C_{\mathrm{t}}(15) = 20 - 0 - 16 = 4$ (see Table 1 in the Appendix). We will return to mixed circulants in Sections 5 and 7.

3.7. The last known non-trivial identity concerns undirected circulants of even order and odd valency:

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(2n, 2r+1) = C_{\mathrm{u}}(2n, 2r) \tag{3.8}$$

for any n and r. This identity is known to hold for square-free n. Moreover it has been verified for all orders less 54 and is conjectured to be valid for all even orders [16]. We will return to this conjecture in the last section.

3.8. There are also two useful but trivial valency-dependent identities:

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(2n+1, 2r+1) = 0, \tag{3.9}$$

which is valid since an undirected graph of odd order cannot have all vertices of odd valency, and

$$C_{\mathrm{i}}(n, n-r-1) = C_{\mathrm{i}}(n, r), \quad \mathrm{i} = \mathrm{u} \text{ or } \mathrm{d}, \tag{3.10}$$

which is valid by graph complementation.

4. New identities for circulants of prime order

4.1 Proposition *For prime* p,

$$2C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{u}}(p) + C_{\mathrm{su}}(p). \tag{4.1}$$

In particular,

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(p) = 2C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) = 2C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) \quad \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod 4. \tag{4.1a}$$

Proof: For $p > 2$, substitute 2 for all variables in formula (2.4) with $p - 1 = 2m$. By Theorem 1.3 (the fourth, second and fifth formulae) and formula (1.2), we immediately obtain (4.1). Clearly the second summand in (2.4) vanishes if m is odd (see (3.4)). □

In Section 6.2 we will obtain a generalization of (4.1a) to $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$.

4.2 Remarks

1. Despite the fact that all participating quantities (and the corresponding numerical values for small p) have been known long ago, this striking identity has evidently escaped attention of the previous researchers including the present author. I do not know whether it can be generalized to non-prime orders.
2. In view of equation (3.7), identity (4.1) can be represented equivalently in the following form:

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) + C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{su}}(p) + 2C_{\mathrm{t}}(p). \tag{4.1b}$$

3. It is easy to see that

$$\frac{C_{\mathrm{u}}(n) + C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)}{2} = C_{\tilde{\mathrm{u}}}(n)$$

where $C_{\tilde{\mathrm{u}}}(n)$ is the number of circulants *up to complementarity* (and isomorphism), that is, different unordered pairs consisting of an undirected circulant and its complement [13]. Therefore identity (4.1) can be represented in the following simpler form:

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) = C_{\tilde{\mathrm{u}}}(p). \tag{4.1c}$$

It turns into

$$C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) = C_{\tilde{\mathrm{u}}}(p) \quad \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod 4. \tag{4.1d}$$

4.3. We return to identity (3.3). There are subtler analogues of it for undirected and directed circulants. By straightforward observations of numerical data and subsequent numerical verifications with the help of the formulae for prime and twice prime orders (Theorem 1.3, the second, eighth, first and seventh formulae) we arrived at the following somewhat unusual formulae:

4.4 Proposition *If p and $q = \frac{p+1}{2}$ are both odd primes, then*

$$4C_{\mathrm{u}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{u}}(p+1) + 2\overline{C}_{\mathrm{u}}(2\tilde{p}+1), \tag{4.2}$$

$$2c_{\mathrm{u}}(p,z) = \frac{c_{\mathrm{u}}(p+1,z)}{1+z} + \overline{c}_{\mathrm{u}}\big(2\tilde{p}+1, z^{2^k}\big), \tag{4.3}$$

$$4C_{\mathrm{d}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{d}}(p+1) + 2\overline{C}_{\mathrm{u}}(2\tilde{p}+1) \tag{4.4}$$

and

$$2c_{\mathrm{d}}(p,z)=\frac{c_{\mathrm{d}}(p+1,z)}{1+z}+\overline{c}_{\mathrm{u}}\big(2\tilde{p}+1,z^{2^k}\big). \tag{4.5}$$

In these equations, $\tilde{p}$ denotes the maximal odd divisor of $p-1$ and

$$p-1:=2^{k+1}\tilde{p}.$$

Now $\overline{c}_{\mathrm{u}}(2\tilde{p}+1,z):=c_{\mathrm{u}}(2\tilde{p}+1,z)$ if $2\tilde{p}+1$ is a prime, otherwise $\overline{c}_{\mathrm{u}}$ is calculated by *the same* formula (the second formula in Theorem 1.3) although in this case it does not represent the number of non-isomorphic undirected circulants of order $2\tilde{p}+1$.

Proof: It is clear that formulae (4.2) and (4.4) follow directly from (4.3) and (4.5) respectively. Formula (4.3) is a direct consequence of (2.1) with $2m=q-1$ and the corresponding formulae of Theorem 1.3 for orders p and $p+1=2q$. So in the terminology of Section 2, $\tilde{p}=m'$, where $p-1=2(q-1):=4m$. Formula (4.5) follows similarly but with $m=q-1$. □

For instance, by data in Table 2 one can verify that $2c_{\mathrm{d}}(37,z)=c_{\mathrm{d}}(38,z)/(1+z)+c_{\mathrm{u}}(19,z^2)$. Hence for the valency $r=4$ we have numerically $2(1641+199)=3679+1$, etc.

In particular, by (4.3),

$$2C_{\mathrm{u}}(p,4r+2)=C_{\mathrm{u}}(p+1,4r+2) \tag{4.3$'$}$$

when p and $\frac{p+1}{2}$ are both odd primes since other terms correspond to undirected circulants of odd orders and odd valency and, thus, vanish.

From (4.2) and (4.4) we obtain the following identity not depending on $\tilde{p}$:

4.5 Corollary

$$4C_{\mathrm{d}}(p)-C_{\mathrm{d}}(p+1)=4C_{\mathrm{u}}(p)-C_{\mathrm{u}}(p+1),\quad p\ \textit{and}\ \frac{p+1}{2}\ \textit{odd primes}. \tag{4.6}$$

For example, for $p=13$, $4\cdot 352-1400=4\cdot 14-48=8\ (=2C_{\mathrm{u}}(7))$. For $p=73$ we obtain rather spectacularly $4\cdot 65588423374144427520-26235693496577709960=4\cdot 1908881900-7635527480=120\ (=2C_{\mathrm{u}}(19))$ (moreover, $120=4\cdot 14602-58288=4C_{\mathrm{u}}(37)-C_{\mathrm{u}}(38)$).

Identity (4.6) can also be written as

$$4(C_{\mathrm{d}}(p)-C_{\mathrm{u}}(p))=C_{\mathrm{d}}(p+1)-C_{\mathrm{u}}(p+1)$$

or

$$4C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p+1), \quad p \text{ and } \frac{p+1}{2} \text{ odd primes}, \tag{4.6'}$$

where $C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(n)$ denotes the number of directed circulant graphs that are not undirected graphs.

Similarly from (4.3) and (4.5) we obtain

$$2(1+z)c_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p,z) = c_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p+1,z), \quad p \text{ and } \frac{p+1}{2} \text{ odd primes}, \tag{4.7}$$

or, equivalently,

$$2(C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p,r)+C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p,r-1)) = C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(p+1,r), \quad p \text{ and } \frac{p+1}{2} \text{ odd primes}. \tag{4.7'}$$

Thus, for example, for $p = 13$ and $r = 5$ we have $C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(13,5) = 66 - 0 = 66$, $C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(13,4) = 43 - 3 = 40$, $66 + 40 = 106$ and $C_{\mathrm{d}\backslash\mathrm{u}}(14,5) = 217 - 5 = 2 \cdot 106$.

4.6 Remark Some number theoretic aspects of identities (4.2)–(4.7) together with (3.1)–(3.3) are worth considering. There are 21 such pairs of primes $p = 2q - 1$ less 1000. The first six p are 3, 5, 13, 37, 61 and 73 with their corresponding $q = 2, 3, 7, 19, 31$ and 37. These are the sequences M2492 and M0849 in Sloane's Encyclopedia [19] (resp., A005383 and A005382 in its extended on-line version [18]). In number theory, these numbers are called *nearly doubled primes*, and pairs (q, p) are also known as *Cunningham chains of the second kind* of length 2 (see, e.g., [7, 15]). By definition, such primes q resemble the familiar Sophie Germain primes, that is, primes q such that $p = 2q + 1$ is also prime. The latter primes play a different role in our formulae: the polynomial $\mathfrak{I}_{p-1} = \mathfrak{I}_{2q}$ contains the minimal possible (for $p > 3$) number of terms, four. In Section 7.8 we will discuss some more advanced data concerning nearly doubled primes.

5. Circulants of prime-squared order

Throughout this section, p denotes an arbitrary odd prime.

5.1 Theorem [10, 11]

$$\begin{aligned}
c_{\mathrm{d}}(p^2,z) &= \mathcal{C}(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=1+z^r,\,y_r:=1+z^{pr}\}_{r=1,2,\ldots}}\\
c_{\mathrm{u}}(p^2,z) &= \mathcal{C}^*(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=1+z^{2r},\,y_r:=1+z^{2pr}\}_{r=1,2,\ldots}}\\
c_{\mathrm{o}}(p^2,z) &= \mathcal{C}(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=1,\,y_r:=1\}_{r\ \mathrm{even}},\{x_r^2:=1+2z^r,\,y_r^2:=1+2z^{pr}\}_{r\ \mathrm{odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p^2) &= \mathcal{C}(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=2,\,y_r:=2\}_{r\ \mathrm{even}},\{x_r:=0,\,y_r:=0\}_{r\ \mathrm{odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2) &= \mathcal{C}^*(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=2,\,y_r:=2\}_{r\ \mathrm{even}},\{x_r:=0,\,y_r:=0\}_{r\ \mathrm{odd}}}\\
C_{\mathrm{t}}(p^2) &= \mathcal{C}(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})|_{\{x_r:=0,\,y_r:=0\}_{r\ \mathrm{even}},\{x_r^2:=2,\,y_r^2:=2\}_{r\ \mathrm{odd}}}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathcal{C}(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) := \frac{1}{p}\mathcal{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x}^{p+1}) - \frac{1}{p}\mathcal{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{xy}) + \mathcal{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{x})\mathcal{I}_{p-1}(\mathbf{y})$$

and

$$\mathcal{C}^*(p^2;\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) := \frac{1}{p}\mathcal{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{x}^{p+1}) - \frac{1}{p}\mathcal{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{xy}) + \mathcal{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{x})\mathcal{I}_{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\mathbf{y})$$

with $\mathbf{x}^{p+1} := x_1^{p+1}, x_2^{p+1}, x_3^{p+1}, \ldots$ *and* $\mathbf{xy} := x_1y_1, x_2y_2, x_3y_3, \ldots$

5.2. Mixed self-complementary circulant graphs. By definition (see Section 3.6),

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}^{\mathrm{mixed}}(p^2) := C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p^2) - C_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2) - C_{\mathrm{t}}(p^2). \tag{5.1}$$

According to [11, 14], the number of non-CI (non-Cayley isomorphic) circulants of order p^2 is

$$D_{\mathrm{i}}(p^2) = C_{\mathrm{i}}(p)^2, \tag{5.2}$$

where $\mathrm{i} \in \{\mathrm{sd}, \mathrm{su}, \mathrm{t}\}$. We recall that a circulant is said to be *non-CI* if there exists a circulant isomorphic but not Cayley isomorphic to it. A *Cayley isomorphism* means an isomorphism that is induced by an automorphism of the underlying group $\mathbb{Z}_n$.

5.3 Proposition

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}^{\mathrm{mixed}}(p^2) = 2C_{\mathrm{su}}(p)C_{\mathrm{t}}(p) \tag{5.3}$$

and

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}^{\mathrm{mixed}}(p^2) = D_{\mathrm{sd}}(p^2) - D_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2) - D_{\mathrm{t}}(p^2), \tag{5.4}$$

that is, the mixed self-complementary circulants of order p^2 *are exactly the* non-CI *mixed self-complementary circulants.*

Proof: We make use of an algebraic property of self-complementary circulants of prime-power order. According to a result announced by Li [12] (Theorem 3.3), if Γ is a self-complementary circulant of order p^2 then one of the following holds.

- Γ can be obtained by means of the well-known (alternating cycle) construction discovered by Sachs and Ringel.
- $\Gamma = \Gamma_1[\Gamma_2]$ where Γ_1 and Γ_1 are self-complementary circulants of order p. Here $\Gamma_1[\Gamma_2]$ is the composition (called also the wreath or lexicographic product) defined as follows:

in Γ_1 we replace each vertex by a copy of Γ_2; each edge of Γ_1 gives rise to the edges connecting all pairs of vertices from the two corresponding copies of Γ_2.

The first construction generates only undirected circulants or tournaments (cf. [14]); moreover, all of them are CI. Now, there is no mixed self-complementary circulant of order p (this is identity (3.7)). Therefore the second construction gives rise to a mixed graph if and only if one of the factors is an undirected self-complementary circulant and the other factor is a tournament. This proves (5.3). Further, all self-complementary circulants $\Gamma = \Gamma_1[\Gamma_2]$ are non-CI [14]. This, together with (5.2), proves (5.4) (moreover, this proves (5.2) since the composition of two undirected circulants is undirected and the composition of two tournaments is a tournament). □

It would be interesting to find an analytical derivation of these equations with the help of Theorem 5.1.

By (5.1) we have

5.4 Corollary

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p^2) - C_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2) - C_{\mathrm{t}}(p^2) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p)^2 - C_{\mathrm{su}}(p)^2 - C_{\mathrm{t}}(p)^2. \tag{5.5}$$

5.5 Example $p = 13$. By Theorem 5.1, $C_{\mathrm{sd}}(13^2) = 123992391755402970674764$, $C_{\mathrm{su}}(13^2) = 56385212104$ and $C_{\mathrm{t}}(13^2) = 123992391755346585462636$. It follows that $C_{\mathrm{sd}}^{\mathrm{mixed}}(13^2) = 24$. Now $C_{\mathrm{sd}}(13)^2 = 8^2 = 64$, $C_{\mathrm{su}}(13)^2 = 2^2 = 4$, $C_{\mathrm{t}}(13)^2 = 6^2 = 36$ and $64 - 4 - 36 = 24 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 6$.

By (3.7) (or, instead, by (5.1) and (5.3)), identity (5.5) can be represented as follows:

$$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p^2) = C_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2) + C_{\mathrm{t}}(p^2) + 2C_{\mathrm{su}}(p)C_{\mathrm{t}}(p). \tag{5.6}$$

We note also that if $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, then $C_{\mathrm{su}}(p)$ and $C_{\mathrm{su}}(p^2)$ vanish by (3.4), and identity (5.6) turns into (3.5) for $n = p^2$.

6. Alternating sums

Alternating sums serve as one further source of formal identities. First consider directed circulants of prime order. Take the generating function $c_{\mathrm{d}}(p, t)$ and put $t := -1$. By Theorem 1.3 we see that the result is equal to $C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p)$. By Theorem 5.1, the same equality is valid for the orders $n = p^2$. Moreover, by formulae given in [11] it is valid for arbitrary odd square-free orders. Thus, for prime-squared and square-free n we have

$$c_{\mathrm{d}}(n, -1) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n). \tag{6.1}$$

The corresponding result holds for the same n for undirected circulants with respect to the substitution $t^2 := -1$, or $t := \sqrt{-1}$:

$$c_{\mathrm{u}}(n, t)|_{t^2:=-1} = C_{\mathrm{su}}(n). \tag{6.2}$$

It is natural to suggest that both formulae are valid in general:

6.1. Conjecture. Identities (6.1) and (6.2) hold for any odd order n.

Trivially (by complementation), identity (6.1) holds also for even n, and (6.2) holds for $n \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, see (3.9) and (3.10). Identity (6.2) is also valid for $n = 45$ as numerical data [16] show.

The behaviour of oriented circulant graphs is different. Numerical observations show that

$$c_{\mathrm{o}}(n, -1) = 0 \tag{6.3a}$$

if n has at least one prime divisor $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, otherwise

$$c_{\mathrm{o}}(n, -1) = 1. \tag{6.3b}$$

These identities hold for prime $n = p$ by Theorem 1.3, for *odd* square-free n by [11] and for $n = p^2$ by Theorem 5.1. Again we **conjecture** them to be valid for all odd n.

For *even* square-free n we found that identity (6.3b) holds if $n = 2n',\ n'$ odd, and (6.3a) holds if $n = 4n',\ n'$ square-free. The behaviour of $c_{\mathrm{o}}(n, -1)$ for $n = 8n',\ n' > 1$, remains unknown.

Identities (6.1) and (6.2) for prime $n = p$ transform (4.1) into the following equality:

$$2c_{\mathrm{d}}(p, -1) = c_{\mathrm{u}}(p, 1) + c_{\mathrm{u}}(p, \sqrt{-1}). \tag{6.4}$$

6.2. Even- and odd-valent circulants. Due to (6.1) and (6.2) we can find simple expressions for the numbers of circulants of (non-specified) *even* (and, resp., *odd*) valency; for undirected circulants we consider only odd orders and mean even and odd *semi*-valencies, that is, valencies congruent, respectively, to 0 and 2 modulo 4. We use the superscript e and o to denote these numbers. Now, formula (6.1) is nothing than $C^{\mathrm{e}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) - C^{\mathrm{o}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)$. Since $C^{\mathrm{e}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) + C^{\mathrm{o}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) = C_{\mathrm{d}}(n)$, we obtain

$$C^{\mathrm{e}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) = \frac{C_{\mathrm{d}}(n) + C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)}{2} \tag{6.5e}$$

and

$$C^{\mathrm{o}}_{\mathrm{d}}(n) = \frac{C_{\mathrm{d}}(n) - C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)}{2}. \tag{6.5o}$$

So, these expressions hold for square-free, prime-squared and even n and are assumed to hold for all orders.

Similarly, (6.2) gives rise to

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{e}}(n) = \frac{C_{\mathrm{u}}(n) + C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)}{2}, \tag{6.6e}$$

and

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{o}}(n) = \frac{C_{\mathrm{u}}(n) - C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)}{2} \tag{6.6o}$$

for undirected circulants of odd orders and even and, resp., odd semi-valency. Equations (6.6e) and (6.6o) remain unproven unless n is square-free or prime-squared or congruent to 3 modulo 4.

Clearly the respective expressions can be extracted from (6.3a) and (6.3b) for oriented circulants.

Comparing formula (6.6e) for prime $n = p$ with (4.1) we obtain the following curious identity:

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{e}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{sd}}(p). \tag{6.7}$$

This equation directly generalizes identity (4.1a) to $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ because $C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{e}}(p) = C_{\mathrm{u}}(p)/2$ for $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$. By (6.1), this may also be written as $C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{e}}(p) = c_{\mathrm{d}}(p, -1)$. Finally, identities (4.1c) and (6.7) imply

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}^{\mathrm{e}}(p) = C_{\tilde{\mathrm{u}}}(p). \tag{6.7$'$}$$

7. Discussion

As we saw above, the enumerative theory of circulants is full of hidden inter-dependencies. Table 3 in the Appendix contains a summary of previous and new identities.

We expect that there should exist further generalizations of the obtained identities for other classes of circulant graphs, first of all, for multigraphs and graphs with coloured or marked edges.

7.1. Let $C'_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)$ denote the number of directed self-complementary n-circulants whose automorphism group coincides with $Z(n)$. Such circulants are called *strong*. The numbers of strong circulants can be counted for prime $n = p$ by the following simple formula [4] (cf. also [3]):

$$C'_{\mathrm{sd}}(p) = \frac{1}{p-1} \sum_{d \mid \frac{p-1}{2},\ d \text{ odd}} \mu(d) 2^{(p-1)/2d}$$

where $\mu(d)$ is the number theoretic Möbius function. A similar formula is valid for undirected self-complementary circulants without additional automorphisms [14]. Every strong

self-complementary circulant digraph is a tournaments, and as calculations show, the values of $C'_{\mathrm{sd}}(p)$ are close to those of $C_{\mathrm{t}}(p)$. Are there any interesting identities containing $C'_{\mathrm{sd}}(p)$?

7.2. Is it possible to give a bijective proof of identity (4.1) or one of its clones (including (6.7) and (6.7′))? This question looks especially intriguing in view of the fact that general circulant graphs, unlike self-complementary circulants, are naturally partitioned by valency. Hence such a bijection would introduce a certain external graduation ("pseudo-valency") into the class of self-complementary circulant digraphs of prime order. Self-complementary circulants possess their own natural graduations. Such is, for instance, the one defined by the number of orbits of the automorphism group in its action on the set of arcs. Is there a natural graduation that corresponds to the valency of undirected circulants? We could put formally $x_r := 1 + z^r$, $r = 1, 2, \ldots$, in (2.4) instead of $x_r := 2$. But is there a natural combinatorial interpretation of the coefficients of the left hand-side polynomial thus obtained?

7.3. In general, analytical identities are characteristic for enumerators of self-complementary graphs of diverse classes. Such results can be found in numerous publications. We refer to surveys by Robinson [17] and Farrugia [6]. In the latter, several open questions are also posed. In particular, the problem K in Sect. 7.64 is just the problem of finding a natural bijection for identity (3.2).

7.4. Open question for mixed circulants. Is identity (3.5) valid for the orders all whose prime divisors are congruent to 3 modulo 4? In other words (in view of (3.4)), are there mixed self-complementary circulants of such orders? We conjecture that mixed self-complementary circulants of order n exist if and only if n is odd composite and has a prime divisor $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$. If so, then, moreover, identity (3.7) holds if and only if all prime divisors of n are congruent to 3 modulo 4.

This conjecture is valid for square-free orders, and it can also be proved for the prime-power orders $n = p^k$.

7.5. Here are the four non-isomorphic mixed self-complementary circulants of order 15 mentioned in Section 3.6:

$$X(\Gamma_1) = \{1, -2, 4, -8, 3, -3, 5\}, \quad X(\Gamma_3) = \{1, -1, 4, -4, 6, -6, 5\},$$
$$X(\Gamma_2) = \{1, -2, 4, -8, 3, -3, -5\}, \quad X(\Gamma_4) = \{1, -1, 4, -4, 6, -6, -5\}.$$

It is easy to see that $\Gamma_2 \cong \overrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}_3}[\mathcal{Z}_5]$ and $\Gamma_3 \cong \mathcal{Z}_5[\overrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}_3}]$, where [ ] denotes the compositions (see 5.3), $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{Z}_3}$ a directed triangle and $\mathcal{Z}_5$ an undirected 5-cycle.

The next suitable order is 25; there are only $2 = 214 - 205 - 7$ mixed self-complementary circulants.

7.6. Conjectural (for arbitrary n) identity (3.8) can be interpreted as follows. Let Γ be an arbitrary undirected circulant graph of order $2n$ and *even* valency. This means that its connection set X does not contain n. Let Γ' be another circulant graph isomorphic to Γ.

Then the corresponding odd-valent circulant graphs with the connection sets $X(\Gamma) \cup \{n\}$ and $X(\Gamma') \cup \{n\}$ are, presumably, also isomorphic. We assume that the following stronger assertion is valid:

Conjecture. If Γ and Γ' are two isomorphic undirected circulant graphs of order $2n$, then there exists an isomorphism between them which is also an automorphism of the 1-valent circulant graph Γ_0 with the connection set $X(\Gamma_0) = \{n\}$.

The graph Γ_0 is a perfect matching (the set of "spokes" in $\mathbb{Z}_{2n}$). The point is that an undirected circulant of odd valency can contain a lot of perfect matchings, and a particular isomorphism of it does not have to preserve this specific matching. Moreover, the assertion of the conjecture is not valid for Cayley graphs in general.

The conjecture is evident for CI circulant graphs and it is in conformity with the well-known smallest example of a non-CI circulant graph constructed by Elspas and Turner [5]. Namely, the undirected circulant graphs of order 16 and valency 6 with the connection sets $X = \{1, 2, 7, 9, 14, 15\}$ and $X' = \{2, 3, 5, 11, 13, 14\}$ are isomorphic but not Cayley isomorphic. The isomorphism

$$\begin{cases} i \mapsto i & \text{for even } i \\ i \mapsto i + 4 & \text{for odd } i \end{cases}$$

between them [5] clearly preserves the set of spokes Γ_0, where $X(\Gamma_0) = \{8\}$.

7.7. Can identities (4.2)–(4.7) (as well as (3.1)–(3.3)) be treated bijectively? What is then the meaning of the sum or the corresponding difference? This question is particularly curious for (4.2) and (4.4) in the case of small $\tilde{p}$. The existence of such a treatment seems doubtful at least for composite $2\tilde{p} + 1$. In this respect, identities (4.6) and (4.7) appear to be more promising.

7.8. Number theoretic digression. Return to 4.6. It is commonly believed that the set of nearly doubled primes is infinite. Moreover, there is a conjecture that the number $\pi_{\mathrm{ndp}}(N)$ of such primes $p < N$ grows asymptotically with N as $\frac{CN}{(\log N)^2}$ where $C = 1.320\ldots$ is twice the familiar twin prime constant (curiously, for $N = 10^s$, this fraction is close to $\frac{10^s}{4s^2}$). Recall that the number $\pi(N)$ of all primes $p < N$ grows approximately as $\frac{N}{\log N - 1}$.

At present, a lot of efforts in computational number theory are devoted to the search for Cunningham chains of huge numbers, especially long chains (see, e.g., [7]). In particular, the familiar program proth.exe by Y. Gallot allows to effectively verify the primality of numbers $m \cdot 2^k + 1$ with a fixed m. Keeping in mind identities (4.2)–(4.5) we are especially interested in nearly doubled primes $q = m \cdot 2^k + 1$ and $p = m \cdot 2^{k+1} + 1$ with small $m := \tilde{p}$. In general it is easy to see that such a pair q, p can exist only if $3 \mid m$. Here are the current numerical results for $m \leq 27$.

Pairs of primes q, p of the form $3 \cdot 2^k + 1$ occur twice for $k \leq 2000000$: only with $k = 1, 2$ and $k = 5, 6$ ($p = 193$); see the sequence M1318 in [19] (or A002253 [18]).

Pairs of primes q, p of the form $9 \cdot 2^k + 1$ occur four times for $k \leq 350000$: with $k = 1, 2,\ k = 2, 3,\ k = 6, 7$ and $k = 42, 43$; see M0751 (A002256).

Pairs of primes q, p of the form $15 \cdot 2^k + 1$ occur three times for $k \leq 270000$: with $k = 1, 2,\ k = 9, 10$ and $k = 37, 38$; see M1165 (A002258).

Pairs of primes q, p of the form $21 \cdot 2^k + 1$ occur three times for $k \leq 262000$: with $k = 4, 5,\ k = 16, 17$ and $k = 128, 129$ (see A032360 [18]).

Pairs of primes q, p of the form $27 \cdot 2^k + 1$ occur twice for $k \leq 265000$: with $k = 19, 20$ and $k = 46, 47$ (see A032363 [18]). This case gives rise to the least possible composite value of $2\tilde{p}+1, 55$. So, for the first time it arises for $p = 2q-1 = 27 \cdot 2^{20}+1 = 28311553$.

Clearly $2\tilde{p} + 1 = q$ if 8 does not divide $p - 1$. For $p < 2000$, $2\tilde{p} + 1$ turns out to be composite only in three cases. $q = 229$, $p = 457$ is the least case; here $\tilde{p} = 57$ and $2\tilde{p} + 1 = 115$.

By numerical data we found out that no Cunningham chain exists for $m = 51, 87$ and 93 at least for $k < 170000$. Actually there are multipliers $m = \tilde{p}$, called the Sierpinski numbers, such that all $n = m \cdot 2^k + 1,\ k = 1, 2, \ldots$, are composite, and Sierpinski numbers may be divisible by 3. But are there other odd m divisible by 3 such that no Cunningham chain exists for them? The answer to this question is affirmative, and $m = 66741$ is the least known value (found by Y. Gallot, private communication; the point is that if k is an *even* number, then $66741 \cdot 2^k + 1$ is divisible by 5, 7, 13, 17 or 241).[1]

Here are two remarkable nearly doubled primes:[2]

$141 \cdot 2^k + 1$ are prime for $k = 555, 556$;
$975 \cdot 2^k + 1$ are prime for $k = 6406, 6407$.

7.9. For alternating sums, identities (6.1), (6.2), (6.5) and (6.6) are rather typical; cf., e.g., the paper [13], where other examples of even- and odd-specified quantities and the corresponding half-sum expressions for them are given.

7.10. Finally, instead of equalities, we touch one important type of inequalities which are frequently proved analytically. I conjecture that the sequence of the numbers $C_{\mathrm{u}}(p, 2r)$, $1 < r < (p-1)/2$, is *logarithmically concave*, that is

$$C_{\mathrm{u}}(n, 2r)^2 \geq C_{\mathrm{u}}(n, 2r-2)C_{\mathrm{u}}(n, 2r+2)$$

for any prime order $n = p$ and $1 < r < (n-1)/2$. In other words, the sequence of ratios $C_{\mathrm{u}}(p, 2r)/C_{\mathrm{u}}(p, 2r+2)$ is increasing except for the first and the last member. For composite orders this does not necessarily hold. In particular, the opposite inequality holds for $r = 2$ when $n = 27,\ 121$ and 169. However I do not know counterexamples for square-free orders.

Appendix: Numerical results and summary

Tables 1 and 2 contain relevant numerical data obtained by Theorems 1.3 and 5.1 (they partially reproduce data from [11]).

Table 1. Non-isomorphic circulant graphs.

n	$C_{\mathrm{d}}(n)$	$C_{\mathrm{u}}(n)$	$C_{\mathrm{o}}(n)$	$C_{\mathrm{sd}}(n)$	$C_{\mathrm{su}}(n)$	$C_{\mathrm{t}}(n)$
2	2	2	1	0	0	0
3	3	2	2	1	0	1
4	6	4	2	0	0	0
5	6	3	3	2	1	1
6	20	8	5	0	0	0
7	14	4	6	2	0	2
8	46	12	7	0	0	0
9	51	8	16	3	0	3
10	140	20	21	0	0	0
11	108	8	26	4	0	4
12	624	48	64	0	0	0
13	352	14	63	8	2	6
14	1400	48	125	0	0	0
15	2172	44	276	20	0	16
17	4116	36	411	20	4	16
18	22040	192	1105	0	0	0
19	14602	60	1098	30	0	30
20	68016	336	2472	0	0	0
21	88376	200	4938	88	0	88
22	209936	416	5909	0	0	0
23	190746	188	8054	94	0	94
25	839094	423	26577	214	7	205
26	2797000	1400	44301	0	0	0
28	11276704	3104	132964	0	0	0
29	9587580	1182	170823	596	10	586
30	67195520	8768	597885	0	0	0
31	35792568	2192	478318	1096	0	1096
33	214863120	6768	2152366	3280	0	3280
34	536879180	16460	2690421	0	0	0
35	715901096	11144	5381028	5560	0	5472
37	1908881900	14602	10761723	7316	30	7286
38	7635527480	58288	21523445	0	0	0
39	11454711464	44424	48427776	21944	0	21856
41	27487816992	52488	87169619	26272	56	26216
42	183264019200	355200	290566525	0	0	0
43	104715443852	99880	249056138	49940	0	49940
44	440020029120	432576	523020664	0	0	0
46	1599290021720	762608	1426411805	0	0	0
47	1529755490574	364724	2046590846	182362	0	182362
49	6701785562464	798952	6724513104	399472	0	399472
50	28147499352824	3356408	14121476937	0	0	0

Table 2. Enumeration of circulant graphs by valency (for selective orders).

	$C_u(n,r)$, r even									
	n									
r	7	13	14	19	37	38	61	62	73	74
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2
4	1	3	5	4	9	17	15	29	18	36
6	1	4	8	10	46	92	136	272	199	398
8		3	5	14	172	340	917	1827	1641	3281
10		1	2	14	476	952	4751	9502	10472	20944
12		1	1	10	1038	2066	19811	39591	54132	108264
14				4	1768	3536	67860	135720	231880	463760
16				1	2438	4862	195143	390195	840652	1681300
18				1	2704	5408	476913	953826	2615104	5230208
20					2438	4862	1001603	2003005	7060984	14121968
22					1768	3536	1820910	3641820	16689036	33378072
24					1038	2066	2883289	5766243	34769374	69538738
26					476	952	3991995	7983990	64188600	128377200
28					172	340	4847637	9694845	105453584	210907168
30					46	92	5170604	10341208	154664004	309328008
32					9	17	4847637	9694845	202997670	405995326
34					1	2	3991995	7983990	238819350	477638700
36					1	1	2883289	5766243	252088496	504176992
38							1820910	3641820	238819350	477638700
40							1001603	2003005	202997670	405995326

	$C_d(n,r)$							$C_o(n,r)$			
	n							n			
r	7	13	14	19	31	37	38	13	14	37	38
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2
2	3	6	14	9	15	18	38	5	10	17	34
3	4	19	50	46	136	199	434	14	28	182	364
4	3	43	123	172	917	1641	3679	20	40	1360	2720
5	1	66	217	476	4751	10472	24225	16	32	7616	15232
6	1	80	292	1038	19811	54132	129208	6	12	33006	66012
7		66	292	1768	67860	231880	572024			113152	226304
8		43	217	2438	195143	840652	2145060			311168	622336
9		19	123	2704	476913	2615104	6911508			691494	1382988
10		6	50	2438	1001603	7060984	19352176			1244672	2489344
11		1	14	1768	1820910	16689036	47500040			1810432	3620864
12		1	3	1038	2883289	34769374	102916810			2112184	4224368
13			1	476	3991995	64188600	197915938			1949696	3899392
14				172	4847637	105453584	339284368			1392640	2785280
15				46	5170604	154664004	520235176			742752	1485504
16				9	4847637	202997670	715323334			278528	557056
17				1	3991995	238819350	883634026			65536	131072
18				1	2883289	252088496	981815692			7286	14572
19					1820910	238819350	981815692				
20					1001603	202997670	883634026				

Table 3. Systematized list of identities.

No.	Formula	Orders[a]	Restrictions	Types	Proof	Ref.
			For self-complementary circulants:			
1	(3.4)	n	$\exists p \mid n,\ p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$	su	Combin.	[8]
					Algebraic	[1]
		p or p^2	$p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$		Analytical	[10]
2	(3.5)	p or p^2	$p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$[b]	t, sd	Analytical	[10]
					$\Leftarrow$(3.4), (5.3)	(New)
3	(3.7)	p	–	su, t, sd	Algebraic	[4]
		n	$n = p, \ldots$[b]		Analytical	New
4	(4.1)	p	–	u, su, sd	Analytical	New
5	(4.1a)	p	$p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$	u, sd	$\Leftarrow$(4.1), (3.4)	(New)
6	(4.1b)	p	–	u, su, t	$\Leftarrow$(4.1), (3.7)	(New)
7	(4.1c)	p	–	$\tilde{u}$, sd	$\Leftarrow$(4.1)	(New)
8	(4.1d)	p	$p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$	$\tilde{u}$, t	$\Leftarrow$(4.1c)	(New)
9	(5.5)	p, p^2	–	su, t, sd	$\Leftarrow$(5.2), (5.4)	(New)
10	(5.6)	p, p^2	–	su, t, sd	$\Leftarrow$(3.7), (5.5)	(New)
11	(3.6)	p, q	$p+1=2q \equiv 6 \pmod 8$	su, t	$\Leftarrow$(3.2), (3.7)	(New)
12	(3.2)	p, q	$p + 1 = 2q$	su, sd	Analytical	[10]
			Other valency independent:			
13	(3.1′)	p, q	$p + 1 = 2q$	u, d	$\Leftarrow$(3.1)	[10]
14	(3.3′)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	o	$\Leftarrow$(3.3)	(New)
15	(4.2)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u	$\Leftarrow$(4.3)	(New)
16	(4.4)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u, d	$\Leftarrow$(4.5)	(New)
17	(4.6)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u, d	$\Leftarrow$(4.2), (4.4)	(New)
18	(4.6′)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	d\u	$\Leftarrow$(4.6)	(New)
			By valency:			
19	(3.1)	p, q	$p + 1 = 2q$	u, d	Analytical	[10]
20	(3.3)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	o	Analytical	New
21	(4.3)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u	Analytical	New
22	(4.3′)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u	$\Leftarrow$(4.3)	(New)
23	(4.5)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	u, d	Analytical	New
24	(4.7)	$p, p + 1$	$p + 1 = 2q$	d\u	$\Leftarrow$(4.3), (4.5)	(New)
25	(3.8)	$2n$	$n < 27$	u	Exh. search	[16]
			square-free[c]		Analytical	[11]
26	(3.9)	$2n + 1$	–	u	Trivial	–
27	(3.10)	n	–	u; d	Trivial	–
			Alternating:			
28	(6.1)	n	p^2 or sq. free[d]	d, sd	Analytical	New
29	(6.2)	n	p^2 or sq. free[d]	u, su	Analytical	New
30	(6.3)	n	p^2 or sq. free[d,e]	o	Analytical	New
31	(6.4)	p	–	u, d	$\Leftarrow$(6.1), (4.1)	(New)
			Miscellaneous (non-CI, mixed, of even semi-valency, ...):			
32	(5.2)	p, p^2	–	su; t; sd	Algebraic	[14]
33	(5.3)	p, p^2	–	su, t, sd	Algebraic	New
34	(5.4)	p^2	–	su, t, sd	Algebraic	New
35	(6.7)	p	–	u[e], sd	$\Leftarrow$(6.1), (4.1)	(New)
36	(6.7′)	p	–	u[e], $\tilde{u}$	$\Leftarrow$(6.7), (4.1c)	(New)

[a] p and q are odd primes.

[b] Holds also for $n = p^k$ and square-free n with all prime divisors $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$.
Is conjectured to hold for arbitrary n with all such prime divisors.

[c] Is conjectured to hold for arbitrary even orders and odd valencies.

[d] Is conjectured to hold for arbitrary odd orders.

[e] There is a corresponding conjecture for arbitrary even orders n, $8 \dagger n$.

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Notes

1. Other details can be found at the site `www.primepuzzles.net/problems/prob_036.htm` (*Problem 36. The Liskovets—Gallot numbers*) maintained by C. Rivera.
2. They, together with the latest bounds for k given above, are taken from the corresponding lists maintained in the WWW by W. Keller and N. S. A. Melo, see `www.prothsearch.net/riesel.html`; cf. also [2].

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