

# Characteristic polynomials of some covers of symmetric digraphs

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph and  $A$  a finite group. We give a formula for the characteristic polynomial of a cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$ . This is a generalization of a formula for the characteristic polynomial of a regular covering of a graph. Furthermore, we discuss cyclic abelian covers of  $D$ .

## 1 Introduction

Graphs and digraphs treated here are finite simple. Two vertices are called *adjacent* if they are joined by an edge (arc). The *adjacency matrix*  $A(G)$  of a graph (digraph)  $G$  whose vertex set is  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  is a square matrix of order  $n$ , whose entry  $a_{ij}$  at the place  $(i, j)$  is equal to 1 if there exists an edge (arc) starting at the vertex  $v_i$  and terminating at the vertex  $v_j$ , and 0 otherwise. The *characteristic polynomial*  $\Phi(G; \lambda)$  of a graph or a digraph  $G$  is defined by  $\Phi(G; \lambda) = \det(\lambda I - A(G))$ .

Schwenk [11] studied relations between the characteristic polynomials of some related graphs. Kitamura and Nihei [7] discussed the structure of regular double coverings of graphs by using their eigenvalues. Chae, Kwak and Lee [4] gave the complete computation of the characteristic polynomials of  $K_2$  (or  $\overline{K}_2$ )-bundles over graphs. Kwak and Lee [8] obtained a formula for the characteristic polynomial of a graph bundle when its voltage assignment takes in an abelian group. Sohn and Lee [12] showed that the characteristic

polynomial of a weighted  $K_2$  (or  $\overline{K_2}$ )-bundles over a weighted graph  $G$  can be expressed as a product of characteristic polynomials of two weighted graphs whose underlying graphs are  $G$ . Mizuno and Sato [9] established an explicit decomposition formula for the characteristic polynomial of a derived graph covering of a graph  $G$  with voltages in any finite group, i.e., any regular covering of  $G$ .

Cheng and Wells [2] introduced cyclic triple covers of a complete symmetric digraph  $KD$ , and discussed isomorphism classes of cyclic triple covers of  $KD$ . Mizuno and Sato [10] defined cyclic  $p$ -tuple covers of a symmetric digraph  $D$ , where  $p$  is prime, and obtained a formula for the number of  $k$ -cyclic  $p$ -tuple covers of  $D$  with respect to a group  $\Gamma$  of automorphisms of  $D$ , for any  $k \in GF(p)^*$ .

Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite group and  $g \in A$ . In Section 2, we introduce cyclic  $A$ -covers of  $D$  as a generalization of regular graph coverings of a graph and cyclic  $p$ -tuple covers of a symmetric digraph, and give a decomposition formula for the characteristic polynomial of a  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$ . In Section 3, we consider the case that  $A$  is an abelian group, and examine the structure of  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -covers of  $D$ . Furthermore, we establish another formula for the characteristic polynomial of  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$ .

For propositions concerning the representation of groups the reader is referred to [1].

## 2 Cyclic $A$ -covers of symmetric digraphs

Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph and  $A$  a finite group. A function  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  is called *alternating* if  $\alpha(y, x) = \alpha(x, y)^{-1}$  for each  $(x, y) \in A(D)$ . For  $g \in A$ , a  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_g(\alpha)$  of  $D$  is the digraph defined as follows:

$V(D_g(\alpha)) = V(D) \times A$ , and  $((u, h), (v, k)) \in A(D_g(\alpha))$  if and only if  $(u, v) \in A(D)$  and  $k^{-1}h\alpha(u, v) = g$ ,

where  $V(D)$  and  $A(D)$  is the vertex set and the arc set of  $D$ , respectively. The *natural projection*  $\pi: D_g(\alpha) \rightarrow D$  is a function from  $V(D_g(\alpha))$  onto  $V(D)$  which erases the second coordinates. A digraph  $D'$  is called a *cyclic  $A$ -cover* of  $D$  if  $D'$  is a  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$  for some  $g \in A$ . In the case that  $A$  is abelian,  $D_g(\alpha)$  is called simply a *cyclic abelian cover*.

A graph  $H$  is called a *covering* of a graph  $G$  with projection  $\pi: H \rightarrow G$  if there is a surjection  $\pi: H \rightarrow G$  such that  $\pi|_{N(v')}: N(v') \rightarrow N(v)$  is a bijection for all vertices  $v \in V(G)$  and  $v' \in \pi^{-1}(v)$ . When a finite group  $\Pi$  acts on a graph (digraph)  $G$ , the *quotient graph (digraph)*  $G/\Pi$  is a simple graph (digraph) whose vertices are the  $\Pi$ -orbits on  $V(G)$ , with two vertices adjacent in  $G/\Pi$  if and only if some two of their representatives are adjacent in  $G$ . A covering  $\pi: H \rightarrow G$  is said to be *regular* if there is a subgroup  $B$

of the automorphism group  $Aut H$  of  $H$  acting freely on  $H$  such that the quotient graph  $H/B$  is isomorphic to  $G$ .

Let  $G$  be a graph and  $A$  a finite group. Let  $D(G)$  be the arc set of the symmetric digraph corresponding to  $G$ . Then a mapping  $\alpha: D(G) \rightarrow A$  is called an *ordinary voltage assignment* if  $\alpha(v, u) = \alpha(u, v)^{-1}$  for each  $(u, v) \in D(G)$ . The pair  $(G, \alpha)$  is called an *ordinary voltage graph*. The *derived graph*  $G^\alpha$  of the ordinary voltage graph  $(G, \alpha)$  is defined as follows:

$V(G^\alpha) = V(G) \times A$  and  $((u, h), (v, k)) \in D(G^\alpha)$  if and only if  $(u, v) \in D(G)$  and  $k = h\alpha(u, v)$ ,

where  $V(G)$  is the vertex set of  $G$ . Similarly to the case of a cyclic  $A$ -cover of a symmetric digraph, the *natural projection*  $\pi: G^\alpha \rightarrow G$  is defined. The graph  $G^\alpha$  is called a *derived graph covering* of  $G$  with voltages in  $A$  or an  *$A$ -covering* of  $G$ . The  $A$ -covering  $G^\alpha$  is an  $|A|$ -fold regular covering of  $G$ . Furthermore, every regular covering of a graph  $G$  is an  $A$ -covering of  $G$  for some group  $A$  (see [5]).

The pair  $(D, \alpha)$  of  $D$  and  $\alpha$  can be considered as the ordinary voltage graph  $(\tilde{D}, \alpha)$  of the underlying graph  $\tilde{D}$  of  $D$ . Thus the 1-cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_1(\alpha)$  corresponds to the  $A$ -covering  $\tilde{D}^\alpha$ . Furthermore, if  $p$  is prime,  $A = GF(p)$  and  $k \in A$ , then the  $k$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_k(\alpha)$  is the  $k$ -cyclic  $p$ -tuple cover of  $D$  (see [10]).

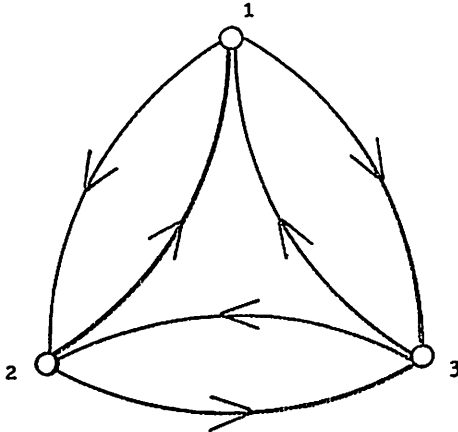


Figure 1. A symmetric digraph

Now, we give an example. Let  $D$  be the symmetric digraph of Figure 1 and  $A = Z_3 = \{0, 1, -1\}$  (the additive group). Furthermore, let  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow Z_3$  be the alternating function such that  $\alpha(1, 2) = 0$ ,  $\alpha(2, 3) = 1$  and  $\alpha(3, 1) = -1$ . Then the 1-cyclic  $Z_3$ -cover (or 1-cyclic 3-tuple cover)  $D_1(\alpha)$  is shown in Figure 2. Arrange the vertices of  $D_1(\alpha)$  in three blocks:

$$(1, 0), (2, 0), (3, 0); (1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1); (1, -1), (2, -1), (3, -1).$$

We consider the adjacency matrix  $A(D_1(\alpha))$  under this order. Then  $A(D_1(\alpha))$  is given as follows:

$$A(D_1(\alpha)) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

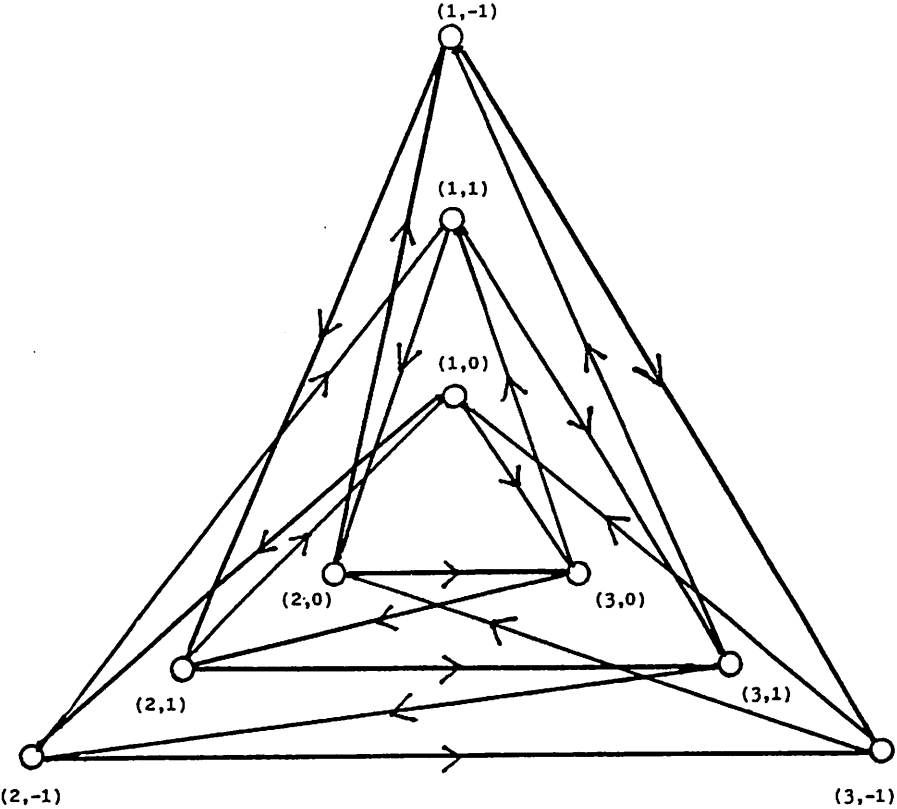


Figure 2. The 1-cyclic  $Z_3$ -cover  $D_1(\alpha)$

The block diagonal sum  $M_1 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} M_s$  of square matrices  $M_1, \dots, M_s$  is defined as the square matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & M_s \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $M_1 = M_2 = \dots = M_s = N$ , then we write  $s \circ N = M_1 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} M_s$ . Furthermore, if  $M_1 = \dots = M_{a_1} = N_1$ ,  $M_{a_1+1} = \dots = M_{a_1+a_2} = N_2, \dots, M_{s-a_t+1} = \dots = M_s = N_t$  ( $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_t = s$ ,  $a_i \geq 0$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq t$ ), then we write  $a_1 \circ N_1 \dot{+} a_2 \circ N_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} a_t \circ N_t = M_1 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} M_s$ . For a square matrix  $B$ , we define  $\Phi(B; \lambda) := \det(\lambda I - B)$ . The *Kronecker product*  $A \otimes B$  of matrices  $A$  and  $B$  is considered as the matrix  $A$  having the element  $a_{ij}$  replaced by the matrix  $a_{ij}B$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite group,  $g \in A$  and  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  an alternating function. Furthermore, let  $\rho_1 = 1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_t$  be the irreducible representations of  $A$ , and  $f_i$  the degree of  $\rho_i$  for each  $i$ , where  $f_1 = 1$ . For  $h \in A$ , the matrix  $A_h = (a_{uv}^{(h)})$  is defined as follows:

$$a_{uv}^{(h)} := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha(u, v) = h \text{ and } (u, v) \in A(D), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then the characteristic polynomial of the  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_g(\alpha)$  of  $D$  is

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \Phi(D; \lambda) \cdot \prod_{j=2}^t \left\{ \Phi \left( \sum_{h \in A} \rho_j(h) \otimes A_{hg}; \lambda \right) \right\}^{f_j},$$

where  $\otimes$  is the Kronecker product of matrices.

**Proof:** Set  $V(D) = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  and  $A = \{1 = g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ . Arrange vertices of  $D_g(\alpha)$  in  $n$  blocks:

$$(v_1, 1), \dots, (v_m, 1); (v_1, g_2), \dots, (v_m, g_2); \dots; (v_1, g_n), \dots, (v_m, g_n).$$

We consider the adjacency matrix  $A(D_g(\alpha))$  under this order. For  $h \in A$ , the matrix  $P_h = (p_{ij}^{(h)})$  is defined as follows:

$$p_{ij}^{(h)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } g_i h = g_j, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Suppose that  $p_{ij}^{(h)} = 1$ , i.e.,  $g_j = g_i h$ . Then  $((u, g_i), (v, g_j)) \in A(D_g(\alpha))$  if and only if  $(u, v) \in A(D)$  and  $g_j^{-1} g_i \alpha(u, v) = g$ , i.e.,  $\alpha(u, v) = g_i^{-1} g_j g = g_i^{-1} g_i h g = h g$ . Thus we have

$$A(D_g(\alpha)) = \sum_{h \in A} P_h \otimes A_{hg}.$$

Let  $\rho$  be the right regular representation of  $A$ . Then we have  $\rho(h) = P_h$  for  $h \in A$ . Furthermore, there exists a regular matrix  $P$  such that

$$P^{-1}\rho(h)P = (1) \dot{+} f_2 \circ \rho_2(h) \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} f_t \circ \rho_t(h) \text{ for each } h \in A,$$

where  $t$  is the number of distinct irreducible representations of  $A$ . Putting

$$B = (P^{-1} \otimes I_m)A(D_g(\alpha))(P \otimes I_m),$$

we have

$$B = \sum_{h \in A} \{(1) \dot{+} f_2 \circ \rho_2(h) \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} f_t \circ \rho_t(h)\} \otimes A_{hg}.$$

Note that  $A(D) = \sum_{h \in A} A_{hg}$ . Therefore it follows that

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \Phi(B; \lambda) = \Phi(D; \lambda) \cdot \prod_{j=2}^t \left\{ \Phi \left( \sum_h \rho_j(h) \otimes A_{hg}; \lambda \right) \right\}^{f_j}.$$

□

**Corollary 1.**  $\Phi(D; \lambda) | \Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda)$ .

Let  $D$  be the symmetric digraph corresponding to a graph  $G$ . Then, note that  $A(D) = A(G)$ .

**Corollary 2 (9, Theorem 1).** *Let  $G$  be a graph,  $A$  a finite group and  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  an ordinary voltage assignment. Let  $\rho_i, f_i$  be as in Theorem 1. Then the characteristic polynomial of the  $A$ -covering  $G^\alpha$  of  $G$  is*

$$\Phi(G^\alpha; \lambda) = \Phi(G; \lambda) \cdot \prod_{j=2}^t \left\{ \Phi \left( \sum_h \rho_j(h) \otimes A_h; \lambda \right) \right\}^{f_j}.$$

### 3 Cyclic abelian covers of symmetric digraphs

Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite abelian group and  $A^*$  the character group of  $A$ . For the mapping  $f: A(D) \rightarrow A$ , a pair  $D_f = (D, f)$  is called a *weighted symmetric digraph*. Given any weighted symmetric digraph  $D_f$ , the adjacency matrix  $A(D_f) = (a_{f,uv})$  of  $D_f$  is the square matrix of order  $|V(D)|$  defined by

$$a_{f,uv} = a_{uv} \cdot f(u, v).$$

The characteristic polynomial of  $D_f$  is that of its adjacency matrix, and is denoted  $\Phi(D_f; \lambda)$  (see [12]).

**Corollary 3.** Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $\alpha$  an alternating function from  $A(D)$  to a finite abelian group  $A$ , and  $g \in A$ . Then we have

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \prod_{\chi \in A^*} \Phi(D_{\chi(g)^{-1}(\chi \circ \alpha)}; \lambda).$$

**Proof:** Each irreducible representation of  $A$  is linear, and these constitute the character group  $A^*$ . By Theorem 1, we have

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \Phi(D; \lambda) \cdot \prod_{\chi \in A^* \setminus \{1\}} \Phi\left(\sum_{h \in A} \chi(h) \mathbf{A}_{hg}; \lambda\right).$$

Since

$$\sum_h \chi(h) \mathbf{A}_{hg} = \sum_h \chi(g^{-1}) \chi(hg) \mathbf{A}_{hg} = \mathbf{A}(D_{\chi(g)^{-1}(\chi \circ \alpha)}),$$

it follows that

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \prod_{\chi \in A^*} \Phi(D_{\chi(g)^{-1}(\chi \circ \alpha)}; \lambda).$$

□

For example, we consider the 1-cyclic  $Z_3$ -cover  $D_1(\alpha)$  of Figure 2. By Corollary 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(D_1(\alpha); \lambda) &= (\lambda^3 - 3\lambda - 2)(\lambda^3 - 3\zeta\lambda - 2)(\lambda^3 - 3\zeta^2\lambda - 2) \\ &= (\lambda^3 - 3\lambda - 2)(\lambda^6 + 3\lambda^4 - 4\lambda^3 + 9\lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 4) \\ &= \lambda^9 - 6\lambda^6 - 15\lambda^3 - 8, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\zeta = (-1 + \sqrt{3}i)/2$ .

**Corollary 4.** Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph with  $m$  vertices,  $A = \langle g \rangle$  a cyclic group and  $\text{ord}(g) = n$  the order of  $g$ . Let  $1: A(D) \rightarrow A$  be the function such that  $1(u, v) = 1$  for each  $(u, v) \in A(D)$ . Furthermore, set  $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/n)$ . Then we have

$$\Phi(D_g(1); \lambda) = \zeta^{-mn(n-1)/2} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \Phi(D; \zeta^k \lambda).$$

**Proof:** For  $g^k \in A$ , the character  $\chi_k$  corresponding to  $g^k$  is defined by  $\chi_k(g^j) = (\zeta^k)^j$ . By Corollary 3, we have

$$\Phi(D_g(1); \lambda) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \Phi(D_{\zeta^{-k}(\chi_k \circ 1)}; \lambda).$$

Since  $\mathbf{1}(u, v) = 1$  for each  $(u, v) \in A(D)$ , we have  $\zeta^{-k}(\chi_k \circ \mathbf{1})(u, v) = \zeta^{-k}\chi_k(1) = \zeta^{-k} \cdot 1 = \zeta^{-k}$  for each  $(u, v) \in A(D)$  and each  $k$ . Then the adjacency matrix  $\mathbf{A}(D_{\zeta^{-k}}) = (a_{\zeta^{-k}, uv})$  is given as follows:

$$a_{\zeta^{-k}, uv} = \begin{cases} \zeta^{-k} & \text{if } (u, v) \in A(D), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Therefore it follows that

$$\Phi(D_{\zeta^{-k}}; \lambda) = \det(\lambda \mathbf{I} - \zeta^{-k} \mathbf{A}(D)) = \zeta^{-mk} \Phi(D; \zeta^k \lambda).$$

Thus the result follows.  $\square$

We shall examine the structure of a cyclic abelian cover of a symmetric digraph. Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite abelian group,  $g \in A$  and  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  an alternating function. The right action of  $A$  on the  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_g(\alpha)$  of  $D$  is defined as follows:

$$(u, k)^h = (u, hk)$$

for each  $h \in A$  and  $(u, k) \in V(D_g(\alpha))$ . Since a 1-cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$  is an  $A$ -covering of the underlying graph  $\tilde{D}$ , we state the structure of nonunit-cyclic  $A$ -cover of  $D$ . For convenience' sake, we identify the 1-cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_1(\alpha)$  with the  $A$ -covering  $\tilde{D}^\alpha$  of  $\tilde{D}$ .

**Theorem 2 (The Structure Theorem).** *Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite abelian group,  $g \neq 1 \in A$  and  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  an alternating function. Let  $\text{ord}(g) = n$  and  $H = \langle g \rangle$  the subgroup of  $A$  generated by  $g$ . Furthermore, let  $\beta: A(D) \rightarrow A/H$  be the alternating function such that  $\beta(x, y) = \alpha(x, y)H$  for each  $(x, y) \in A(D)$ , and  $\tilde{D}$  the underlying graph of  $D$ . Then the  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_g(\alpha)$  of  $D$  is the  $g$ -cyclic  $H$ -cover  $(\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(\mathbf{1})$  of the  $A/H$ -covering  $\tilde{D}^\beta$  of  $\tilde{D}$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $(x, y)$  be any arc of  $D$ . We shall examine the structure of the induced subdigraph  $\langle \pi^{-1}(\{x, y\}) \rangle_{D_g(\alpha)}$ . Let  $|A/H| = m$  and  $\{h_1 = 1, h_2, \dots, h_m\}$  the representatives of all (right) cosets of  $H$  in  $A$ . Set  $\alpha(x, y) = c$ . Then  $((x, h), (y, k)) \in A(D_g(\alpha))$  if and only if  $k^{-1}hc = g$ , i.e.,  $k = hcg^{-1}$ . Furthermore,  $((y, h), (x, k)) \in A(D_g(\alpha))$  if and only if  $k^{-1}hc^{-1} = g$ , i.e.,  $k = hc^{-1}g^{-1}$ . For each  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $g^j \in H$ ,  $((x, h_i g^j), (y, k)) \in A(D_g(\alpha))$  if and only if  $k = h_i g^j c g^{-1} = h_i c g^{j-1}$ , etc. Thus we have

$$((x, h_i g^j), (y, h_i c g^{j-1})) \text{ and } ((y, h_i c g^j), (x, h_i g^{j-1})) \in A(D_g(\alpha)).$$

for each  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $g^j \in H$ . Therefore, for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , we obtain a



dicycle or a union of two dicycles as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((x, h_i), (y, h_i c g^{-1}), (x, h_i g^{-2}), (y, h_i c g^{-3}), \dots, (y, h_i c g), (x, h_i)) (n: \text{ odd}); \\ & ((x, h_i), (y, h_i c g^{-1}), (x, h_i g^{-2}), \dots, (y, h_i c g), (x, h_i)) \\ & \cup ((x, h_i g^{-1}), (y, h_i c g^{-2}), (x, h_i g^{-3}), \dots, (y, h_i c), (x, h_i g^{-1})) (n: \text{ even}). \end{aligned}$$

Now, we consider the quotient digraph  $D_H = D_g(\alpha)/H$ . Set  $H_i = Hh_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ). Then we have

$$A(\langle \pi^{-1}(\{x, y\}) \rangle_{D_H}) = \{((x, H_i), (y, cH_i)), ((y, cH_i), (x, H_i)) | 1 \leq i \leq m\}.$$

However, in the  $A/H$ -covering  $\tilde{D}^\beta$  of  $\tilde{D}$ ,  $((x, H_i), (y, K)) \in D(\tilde{D}^\beta)$  if and only if  $K = H_i \beta(x, y) = H_i c H = H h_i c H = c(H h_i) = c H_i$ , for each  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . Thus we have  $((x, H_i), (y, cH_i))$  and  $((y, cH_i), (x, H_i)) \in D(\tilde{D}^\beta)$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ). Therefore it follows that  $D_g(\alpha)/H = \tilde{D}^\beta$ .

Next, we consider the  $g$ -cyclic  $A/H$ -cover  $(\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(1)$  of  $\tilde{D}^\beta$ . Two vertices  $((x, H_i), g^j), ((y, cH_i), h)$  are adjacent in  $(\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(1)$  if and only if  $h^{-1} g^j = g$ , i.e.,  $h = g^{j-1}$ . Thus we have

$$(((x, H_i), g^j), ((y, cH_i), g^{j-1})) \in A((\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(1))$$

for each  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ . Identifying  $((y, cH_i), g^j)$  with  $(y, h_i c g^j)$ , etc, we have

$$((x, h_i g^j), (y, h_i c g^{j-1})) \in A((\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(1))$$

for each  $i$  and  $j$ . Hence it follows that  $D_g(\alpha) = (\tilde{D}^\beta)_g(1)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 5.**  $\Phi(\tilde{D}^\beta; \lambda) | \Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda)$ .

Finally, we shall apply Theorem 2 for the characteristic polynomial of a cyclic abelian cover of a symmetric digraph.

**Corollary 6.** *Let  $D$  be a symmetric digraph,  $A$  a finite abelian group,  $g \neq 1 \in A$  and  $\alpha: A(D) \rightarrow A$  an alternating function. Set  $|V(D)| = t$ ,  $\text{ord}(g) = n$ ,  $|A| = nq$  and  $H = \langle g \rangle$ . Furthermore, let  $\beta: A(D) \rightarrow A/H$  be the alternating function such that  $\beta(x, y) = \alpha(x, y)H$  for each  $(x, y) \in A(D)$ . Then the characteristic polynomial of the  $g$ -cyclic  $A$ -cover  $D_g(\alpha)$  of  $D$  is*

$$\Phi(D_g(\alpha); \lambda) = \zeta^{-qt n(n-1)/2} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \prod_{\chi_k \in (A/H)^*} \Phi(D_{\chi \circ \beta}; \zeta^k \lambda),$$

where  $(A/H)^*$  is the character group of  $A/H$  and  $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/n)$ .

**Proof:** By Theorem 2, Corollaries 3,4 and the fact that  $\tilde{D}^\beta = D_1(\beta)$ .  $\square$

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