

Ricci-flat graphs with girth at least five

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A graph is called *Ricci-flat* if its Ricci curvatures vanish on all edges. Here we use the definition of Ricci curvature on graphs given in Lin–Lu–Yau, *Tohoku Math.*, 2011, which is a variation of Ollivier, *J. Funct. Math.*, 2009. In this paper, we classified all Ricci-flat connected graphs with girth at least five: they are the infinite path, cycle C_n ($n \geq 6$), the dodecahedral graph, the Petersen graph and the half-dodecahedral graph. We also construct many Ricci-flat graphs with girth 3 or 4 by using the root systems of simple Lie algebras.

1. Introduction

The Ricci curvature plays a very important role in geometric analysis on Riemannian manifolds. Ricci-flat manifolds are Riemannian manifolds with Ricci curvature vanishes. In physics, they represent vacuum solutions to the analogs of Einstein’s equations for Riemannian manifolds of any dimension, with vanishing cosmological constant. An important class of Ricci-flat manifolds is Calabi–Yau manifolds. This follows from Yau’s proof of the Calabi conjecture, which implies that a compact *Kähler* manifold with a vanishing first real Chern class has a *Kähler* metric in the same class with vanishing Ricci curvature. There are many works on constructing the Calabi–Yau manifolds. Yau conjectured that there are finitely many topological types of compact Calabi–Yau manifolds in each dimension. This conjecture is still open. In this paper, we will study this question on graphs. First we will give a short history of the definition of Ricci curvature in discrete setting.

The definition of the Ricci curvature on metric spaces was first from the well-known Bakry and Emery notation. Bakry and Emery [1] found a way to define the “lower Ricci curvature bound” through the heat semigroup $(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$ on a metric measure space M . There are some recent works on giving a good notion for a metric measure space to have a “lower Ricci curvature bound,” see [17, 18, 20]. Those notations of Ricci curvature work on so-called length spaces. In 2009, Ollivier [19] gave a notion of coarse Ricci curvature of Markov chains valid on arbitrary metric spaces, such as graphs.

Graphs and manifolds are quite different in their nature. But they do share some similar properties through Laplace operators, heat kernels, random walks, etc. Many pioneering works were done by Chung, Yau and their coauthors [2–13].

A graph $G = (V, E)$ is a pair of the vertex-set V and the edge-set E . Each edge is an unordered pair of two vertices. Unless otherwise specified, we always assume a graph G is simple (no loops and no multi-edges) and connected. It may have infinite but countable number of vertices. For each vertex v , the degree d_v is always finite. Starting from a vertex v_1 we select a vertex v_2 in the neighborhood of v_1 at random and move to v_2 then we select a vertex v_3 in the neighborhood of v_2 at random and move to v_3 , etc. The random sequence of vertices selected this way is a random walk on the graph. Ollivier’s [19] definition of the coarse Ricci curvature of Markov chains on metric space can be naturally defined over such graphs.

The first definition of Ricci curvature on graphs was introduced by Fan Chung and Yau [5] in 1996. In the course of obtaining a good log-Sobolev inequality, they found the following definition of Ricci curvature to be useful.

We say that a regular graph G has a local k -frame at a vertex x if there exist injective mappings η_1, \dots, η_k from a neighborhood of x into V so that

- (1) x is adjacent to $\eta_i x$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ and
- (2) $\eta_i x \neq \eta_j x$ if $i \neq j$.

The graph G is said to be Ricci-flat at x if there is a local k -frame in a neighborhood of x so that for all i

$$\bigcup_j (\eta_i \eta_j) x = \bigcup_j (\eta_j \eta_i) x.$$

For a more general definition of Ricci curvature, in [16], Lin and Yau give a generalization of lower Ricci curvature bound in the framework of graphs in term the notation of Bakry and Emery.

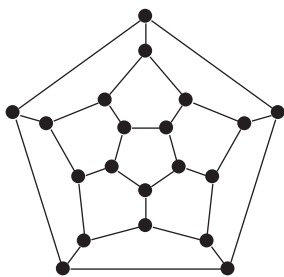
In our previous paper [15], the Ricci curvature on graphs is defined based on Ollivier’s definition of Ricci curvature for Markov chains on graphs. It is natural to define a *Ricci-flat graph* to be a graph where Ricci curvature vanishes on every edge. This definition does not require a graph to be regular; which is an advantage over the Chung–Yau’s definition. The Ricci-flat graphs defined by Chung and Yau are not necessarily Ricci-flat in the sense of our definition. However, the Ricci curvatures of those graphs are always non-negative. In the last section, we constructed many “Ricci-flat” graphs under both definitions.

A well-known Bonnet–Myers theorem on Riemannian geometry said that if a complete Riemannian manifold with Ricci curvature bounded below by a positive constant, then it is compact and has a finite fundamental group. In [15], we prove the first part result of Bonnet–Myers theorem on graphs with Ricci curvature bounded below by a positive constant. In the paper of [14], Forman introduced the Ricci curvature on cell complexes and also obtained the Myers theorem on the fundamental group of the complexes.

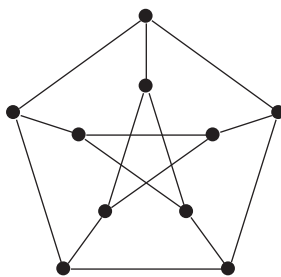
In this paper, we classified Ricci-flat graphs with large girth (using our definition).

Theorem 1. *Suppose that G is a Ricci-flat graph with girth $g(G) \geq 5$. Then G is one of the following graphs:*

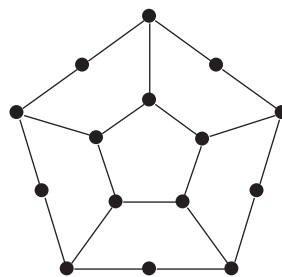
- (1) *the infinite path,*
- (2) *cycle C_n with $n \geq 6$,*
- (3) *the dodecahedral graph,*
- (4) *the Petersen graph and*
- (5) *the half-dodecahedral graph.*



Dodecahedral graph



Petersen graph



Half-dodecahedral graph

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we will review the definitions and some facts about Ricci curvature on graphs. Theorem 1 will be proved in Section 3. In the last section, we will discuss general constructions using Cartesian product, strong graph covering and lattice graphs constructed by the root systems of simple Lie algebras. Combining these methods, we constructed many Ricci-flat graphs with girth 3 or 4.

2. Notations and lemmas

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a simple graph. A probability distribution (over the vertex-set $V(G)$) is a mapping $m: V \rightarrow [0, 1]$ satisfying $\sum_{x \in V} m(x) = 1$. Suppose that two probability distributions m_1 and m_2 have finite support. A coupling between m_1 and m_2 is a mapping $A: V \times V \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with finite support so that

$$\sum_{y \in V} A(x, y) = m_1(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{x \in V} A(x, y) = m_2(y).$$

The transportation distance between two probability distributions m_1 and m_2 is defined as follows:

$$(2.1) \quad W(m_1, m_2) = \inf_A \sum_{x, y \in V} A(x, y) d(x, y),$$

where the infimum is taken over all couplings A between m_1 and m_2 . A function f over G is c -Lipschitz if

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq cd(x, y)$$

for all $x, y \in V$. By the duality theorem of a linear optimization problem, the transportation distance can also be written as follows:

$$(2.2) \quad W(m_1, m_2) = \sup_f \sum_{x \in V} f(x)[m_1(x) - m_2(x)],$$

where the supremum is taken over all one-Lipschitz function f .

For any vertex x , let $\Gamma(x)$ denote the set of neighbors of x , i.e.,

$$\Gamma(x) = \{v | vx \in E(G)\}.$$

Let $N(x) = \Gamma(x) \cup \{x\}$.

For any $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ and any vertex x , the probability measure m_x^α is defined as

$$(2.3) \quad m_x^\alpha(v) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } v = x, \\ \frac{1-\alpha}{d_x} & \text{if } v \in \Gamma(x), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

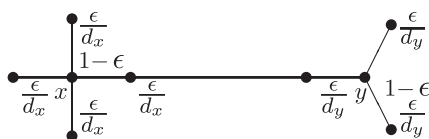


Figure 1: The transportation distance between two ϵ -balls in a graph.

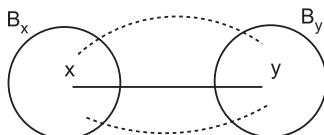


Figure 2: The average distance between two ϵ -balls in a manifold.

For any $x, y \in V$, we define α -Ricci curvature κ_α to be

$$(2.4) \quad \kappa_\alpha(x, y) = 1 - \frac{W(m_x^\alpha, m_y^\alpha)}{d(x, y)}.$$

The Ricci curvature $\kappa(x, y)$ is defined as

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \frac{\kappa_\alpha(x, y)}{1 - \alpha}.$$

Let $\epsilon = 1 - \alpha$. Then m_x^α can be viewed as the ball of radius ϵ and centered at x . Under this setting, the Ricci curvature captures the approximation of the transportation distance between two balls of radius ϵ :

$$(2.5) \quad W(m_x^{1-\epsilon}, m_y^{1-\epsilon}) = (1 - \epsilon\kappa(x, y) + o(\epsilon))d(x, y).$$

This is similar to the Ricci curvature in the differential manifolds M of dimension N (see figures 1 and 2). Let $x \in M$ and v be a unit tangent vector at x . Let y be a point on the geodesic issuing from v , with $d(x, y)$ small enough. Then, the average distance between two ϵ -balls centered at x and y in M is (see [19]):

$$(2.6) \quad d(x, y) \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon^2 \text{Ric}(v, v)}{2(N + 2)} + O(\epsilon^3 + \epsilon^2 d(x, y)) \right).$$

A graph G is called *Ricci-flat* if $\kappa(x, y) = 0$ for any edge $xy \in E(G)$.

Lemma 1. *Suppose that an edge xy in a graph G is not in any C_3 , C_4 or C_5 . Then $\kappa(x, y) = \frac{2}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y} - 2$.*

Corollary 1. *Suppose that x is a leaf-vertex (i.e., $d_x = 1$). Let y be the only neighbor of x . Then $\kappa(x, y) > 0$.*

Lemma 2. *Suppose that an edge xy in a graph G is not in any C_3 or C_4 . Then $\kappa(x, y) \leq \frac{1}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y} - 1$.*

Proof. Define $f: N(x) \cup N(y) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$f(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u \in N(x) \setminus \{y\}, \\ 1 & \text{if } u = y, \\ 2 & \text{if } u \in N(y) \setminus \{x\}. \end{cases}$$

Since xy is not in any C_3 or C_4 , f is a Lipschitz function. We have

$$\begin{aligned} W(m_x^\alpha, m_y^\alpha) &\geq \sum_{u \in V} f(u)[m_y^\alpha(u) - m_x^\alpha(u)] \\ &= \alpha + 2(1 - \alpha) \left(1 - \frac{1}{d_y}\right) - \frac{1 - \alpha}{d_x} \\ &= 2 - \alpha - (1 - \alpha) \left(\frac{1}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\kappa(x, y) = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \frac{1 - W(m_x^\alpha, m_y^\alpha)}{1 - \alpha} \leq \frac{1}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y} - 1.$$

The proof of the lemma is finished. □

Lemma 3. *Suppose that an edge xy in a graph G is not in any C_3 or C_4 . Without loss of generality, we assume $d_x \leq d_y$. If $\kappa(x, y) = 0$, then one of the following statements holds (see figure 3):*

- (1) $d_x = d_y = 2$. In this case, xy is not in any C_5 .
- (2) $d_x = d_y = 3$. In this case, xy is shared by two C_5 's.
- (3) $d_x = 2$ and $d_y = 3$. In this case, let x_1 be the other neighbor of x other than y . Let y_1, y_2 be two neighbors of y other than x . Then $\{d(x_1, y_1), d(x_1, y_2)\} = \{2, 3\}$.

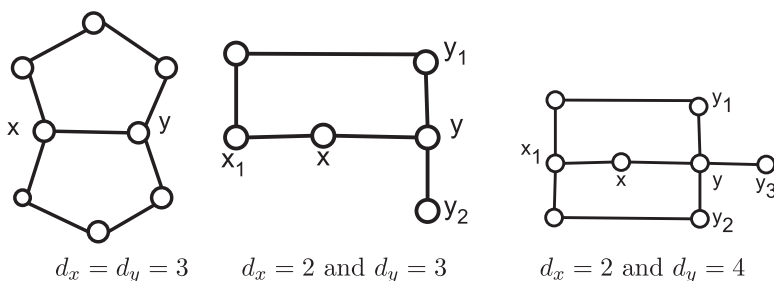


Figure 3: Local structures in Lemma 3.

- (4) $d_x = 2$ and $d_y = 4$. In this case, let x_1 be the other neighbor of x other than y . Let y_1, y_2, y_3 be three neighbors of y other than x . Then at least two of y_1, y_2, y_3 have distance 2 from x .

Proof. By Lemma 2, we have

$$0 \leq \frac{1}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y} - 1.$$

Since $d_x \leq d_y$, we have $1 \leq \frac{3}{d_x}$. By Corollary 1, $d_x \geq 2$. We have $d_x = 2$ or 3. If $d_x = 2$, then $d_y = 2, 3, 4$. If $d_x = 3$, then $d_y = 3$.

Case 1. $d_x = d_y = 2$ and xy is in a C_5 , then $\kappa(x, y) > 0$. Contradiction!

Case 2. $d_x = d_y = 3$ and xy is not shared by two C_5 's. Let x_1, x_2 be two other neighbors of x and y_1, y_2 are two other neighbors of y . Without loss of generality, we can assume $d(x_1, y_1) \geq 3$ and $d(x_1, y_2) \geq 3$. In this case, we can define a Lipschitz function $f: N(x) \cup N(y) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows, $f(x_1) = -1$, $f(x_2) = f(x) = 0$, $f(y) = 1$ and $f(y_1) = f(y_2) = 2$. Using this function f , we can show $\kappa(x, y) < 0$. Contradiction.

Case 3. $d_x = 2$ and $d_y = 3$. Let x_1 be the other neighbors of x and y_1, y_2 are two other neighbors of y . If $d(x_1, y_1) = d(x_1, y_2) = 2$, then a similar calculation shows $\kappa(x, y) > 0$. If $d(x_1, y_1) = d(x_1, y_2) = 3$, then $\kappa(x, y) = \frac{2}{2} + \frac{2}{3} - 1 < 0$. In both cases, we get contradiction.

Case 4. $d_x = 2$ and $d_y = 4$. Let x_1 be the other neighbors of x and y_1, y_2, y_3 are two other neighbors of y . If $d(x, y_i)$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) have at least two 3's, then $\kappa(x, y) < 0$. Contradiction!

The proof of Lemma is finished. □

3. Proof of Theorem 1

Proof of Theorem 1. Suppose $g(G) \geq 6$. By Lemma 1, for any edge xy , we have

$$0 = \kappa(x, y) = \frac{2}{d_x} + \frac{2}{d_y} - 2.$$

The only integer solution is $d_x = d_y = 2$. Hence G is two-regular graph. Since G is connected, it is either an infinite path or a cycle C_n .

Now we consider the case $g(G) = 5$. By Lemma 3, every vertex in G has degree 2, 3 or 4. We have the following three claims:

Claim a. G has no vertex with degree 4.

Suppose that y is a vertex with degree 4. By Lemma 3, all its neighbors must have degree 2. Let x be one of its neighbors and x_1 be the other neighbor of x other than y . The local structure is shown in figure 3. We observe that x_1 have degree at least 3. If $d_{x_1} = 3$, by Lemma 3, x_1x cannot be shared by two C_5 ; contradiction! If $d_{x_1} = 4$, then all its neighbors have degree 2. Now we have two vertices of degree 2 in a C_5 that are adjacent to each other. This is a contradiction to item 1 of Lemma 3. Thus, we proved Claim a.

Claim b. Any C_5 in G can have at most one vertex with degree 2.

Suppose that u and v are two vertices of degree 2 located in one C_5 . By Item 1 of Lemma 3, the vertices with degree 2 are not adjacent to each other. In particular, the other three vertices on this C_5 have degree 3. Let x, y be two adjacent vertices of degree 3 on a C_5 . Applying Lemma 3, there is another C_5 passing through xy . The other vertices are labeled as shown in figure 4.

If $d_{u'} = 3$, then xu' is in two C_5 . As result, ww' must be connected. Then vw is in two C_5 's. Contradiction to item 3 of Lemma 3. Hence $d_{u'} = 2$.

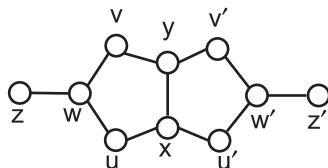


Figure 4: Two C_5 's.

Similarly, we have $d_{v'} = 2$. Note that $d_w = d_{w'} = 3$. Note zw is not in any C_5 . Contradiction. Claim b is proved.

Claim c. Suppose that xy is an edge of G with $d_x = 2$ and $d_y = 3$. Let y_1 and y_2 be the other two neighbors of y besides x . Then one of y_1 and y_2 has degree 2 while the other one has degree 3.

By Lemma 3, every vertex of degree 2 is in a C_5 . This C_5 must contain y and one of y_1 and y_2 . Without loss of generality, assume that y_1 is in this C_5 . By Claim b, y_1 must have degree 3. By Lemma 3, yy_1 is shared by two C_5 's. The second C_5 must pass through y_2 . Since xy is only in one C_5 , there is no C_5 containing y_2, y and x . Thus, $d_{y_2} = 2$.

If G has no vertex with degree 2, then G is three-regular. Every edge is in two C_5 's. G can be embedded into a surface S .

If S is an oriented surface with genus s , then Euler formula gives

$$n - e + f = 2 - 2s.$$

Here e is the number of edges and f is the number of faces. Since G is three-regular, we have $2e = 3n$. Since every face is a C_5 , we have $2e = 5f$. Thus

$$2 - 2s = n - e + f = \frac{2}{3}e - e + \frac{2}{5}e = \frac{1}{15}e > 0.$$

We must $s = 0$. Hence $e = 30, n = 20$ and $f = 10$. In this case, G is the dodecahedral graph.

If S is a non-oriented surface with odd genus s , then Euler formula gives

$$n - e + f = 2 - s.$$

Here e is the number of edges and f is the number of faces. Since G is three-regular, we have $2e = 3n$. Since every face is a C_5 , we have $2e = 5f$. Thus

$$2 - s = n - e + f = \frac{2}{3}e - e + \frac{2}{5}e = \frac{1}{15}e > 0.$$

We must $s = 1$. Hence $e = 15, n = 10$ and $f = 6$. In this case, G is the Petersen graph.

If G contains a vertex u with degree 2, then u is in a C_5 . The other four vertices have degree 3. By Lemma 3, this forces four C_5 s as shown by figure 5.

By Claim c, we have $d_v = d_w = 2$. By Claim b, we have $d_x = d_y = 3$. Now the graph continues to expand. It finally results in the half-dodecahedral graph. The proof of theorem is finished. □

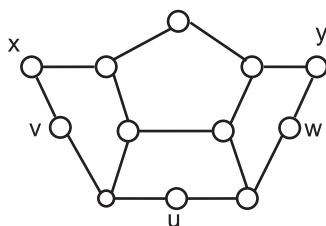


Figure 5: A partial graph of the half-dodecahedral graph.

4. More Ricci-flat graphs

In this section, we will construct many Ricci-flat graphs with girth 3 or 4. Given two graphs G and H , the Cartesian product (denoted by $G \square H$) is a graph over the vertex-set $V(G) \times V(H)$, where two pairs (u_1, v_1) and (u_2, v_2) are connected if “ $u_1 = u_2$ and $v_1v_2 \in E(H)$ ” or “ $u_1u_2 \in E(G)$ and $v_1 = v_2$.” The following theorem is proved in [15].

Theorem (see [15]). *Suppose that G is d_G -regular and H is d_H -regular. Then the Ricci curvature of $G \square H$ is given by*

$$(4.1) \quad \kappa^{G \square H}((u_1, v), (u_2, v)) = \frac{d_G}{d_G + d_H} \kappa^G(u_1, u_2),$$

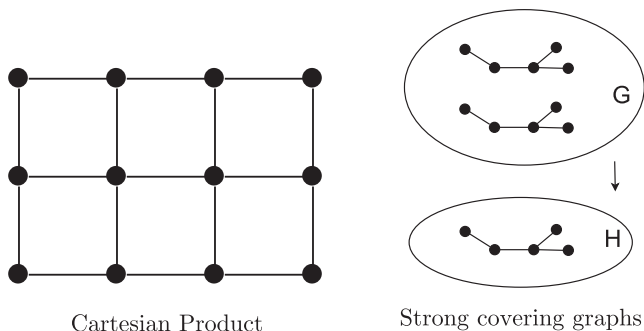
$$(4.2) \quad \kappa^{G \square H}((u, v_1), (u, v_2)) = \frac{d_H}{d_G + d_H} \kappa^H(v_1, v_2).$$

Here $u \in V(G)$, $v \in V(H)$, $u_1u_2 \in E(G)$ and $v_1v_2 \in E(H)$.

Corollary 2. *If both G and H are Ricci-flat regular graphs, so is the Cartesian product graph $G \square H$.*

Another construction of Ricci-flat graphs is using a strong graph covering. A graph G is a *strong covering graph* of another graph H if there is a surjective map $f: V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ satisfying for any edge $uv \in E(G)$, f maps the induced graph of G on $\Gamma_G(u) \cup \Gamma_G(v)$ to the induced graph of H on $\Gamma_H(f(u)) \cup \Gamma_H(f(v))$ bijectively. Note in the traditional definition of covering graph, it only requires f maps the induced graph of G on $\Gamma_G(u)$ to H on $\Gamma_H(f(u))$ bijectively. A strong covering graph H is always a cover graph of H , not vice versa. Observe that $\kappa(u, v)$ only depends on the induced graph on $\Gamma(u) \cup \Gamma(v)$. We have the following corollary.

Corollary 3. *If G is a strong covering graph of H , then G is Ricci-flat if and only if H is Ricci-flat.*



A Ricci-flat graph G is called *simple* if G is neither the Cartesian product of two Ricci-flat graphs or the projection of a Ricci-flat graph.

Many simple Ricci-flat graphs can be constructed using Cayley graphs. Suppose that G is a group and S is a subset of G with $-S = S$. The Cayley graph $\text{Cayley}(G, S)$ is a graph with the vertex set of all elements in G and where a pair (x, y) forms an edge if $x^{-1}y \in S$.

Theorem 2. *Let G be a torsion-free abelian group and S be a finite subset of G satisfying $S = -S$. Let $H := \text{Cayley}(G, S)$ be the Cayley graph. Suppose that H has following property “for any $x \in V$, $s \in S$ and $n \geq 1$, the graph distance $d_H(x, x + ns) = n$.” Then H is Ricci-flat.*

Proof. We first show $\kappa(x, y) \geq 0$ for any edge xy . We use addition “+” for the group operation of the abelian G . Note that H is vertex-transitive; thus it is regular with degree $d := |S|$. For $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, we need to construct a transportation A that moves the probability distribution m_x^α to m_y^α as follows:

$$A(u, v) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } u = x \text{ and } v = y, \\ \frac{1-\alpha}{d} & \text{if } u \in \Gamma_H(x) \text{ and } v - u = y - x, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Observe that A simply moves every mass at vertex u to $v := u + (y - x)$. Since $y - x \in S$, uv is always an edge. The cost of this transportation is $\sum_{u,v \in G} A(u, v)d(u, v) = 1$. By Equations (2.1) and (2.4), we have $\kappa_\alpha(x, y) \geq 0$. Thus, $\kappa(x, y) \geq 0$.

Now we show $\kappa(x, y) = 0$. We will prove it by contradiction. Suppose $\kappa(x, y) > 0$ for some edge $xy \in E(H)$. Let $s := y - x$ and $\epsilon := \kappa(x, y)$. We

have $s \in S$ and $\epsilon > 0$. Since $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1} \frac{\kappa_\alpha(x,y)}{1-\alpha} = \epsilon$, there exists an $\alpha < 1$ such that

$$\kappa_\alpha(x, y) > \frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha).$$

Choose an integer $n > \frac{4}{\epsilon}$. Consider a path $x, x + s, x + 2s, \dots, x + ns$. For any $g \in G$, g acts on H as a graph homomorphism. Thus

$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(g + x, g + y).$$

In particular, for $1 \leq i \leq n$, we have

$$\kappa_\alpha(x + (i - 1)s, x + is) = \kappa_\alpha(x, y) > \frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha).$$

From Equation (2.4), we get

$$W(m_{x+(i-1)s}^\alpha, m_{x+is}^\alpha) < 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha).$$

From the triangular inequality of the transportation distance, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, x + ns) &= W(m_x^1, m_{x+ns}^1) \\ &\leq W(m_x^1, m_x^\alpha) + \sum_{i=1}^n W(m_{x+(i-1)s}^\alpha, m_{x+is}^\alpha) \\ &\quad + W(m_{x+ns}^\alpha, m_{x+ns}^1) \\ &< (1 - \alpha) + n \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \alpha) \right) + (1 - \alpha) \\ &= n + (1 - \alpha) \left(2 - \frac{n\epsilon}{2} \right) \\ &< n. \end{aligned}$$

In the last step, we apply $2 < \frac{n\epsilon}{2}$ by our choice of n . Contradiction! □

Now we apply Theorem 2 to some special lattice graphs whose vertices are the root lattices in some Euclidean spaces.

Theorem 3. *Let R be a root system of type $A_n, B_n, C_n, D_n, F_4, E_6, E_7$ or E_8 (except G_2). Let G be the root lattice, which is viewed as the abelian additive group generated by the roots in R . Let $S \subset R$ satisfying $-S = S$. Then the Cayley graph $\text{Cayley}(G, S)$ is Ricci-flat.*

Proof. Write $H := \text{Cayley}(G, S)$. It suffices to show the conditions of Theorem 2 are satisfied. We only need to verify the following condition: “For any $x \in G$ and $s \in S$, $d_H(x, x + ns) = n$.”

By the triangular inequality of the graph distance, we have

$$d_H(x, x + ns) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n d_H(x + (i - 1)s, x + is) \leq n.$$

We only need to verify $d_H(x, x + ns) \geq n$. We will compare the graph distance to the Euclidean distance as G is embedded as a root lattice. There are two cases.

Case 1. The root system A_n, D_n, E_6, E_7 and E_8 have only one type of length, say l . For any $x \in G$ and $s \in S$, for any $x, y \in G$, $d_H(x, y)$ be the graph distance while $d(x, y)$ be the Euclidean distance. Then we have

$$d(x, y) \leq d_H(x, y)l.$$

For any $s \in S$ and integer n , we have

$$d_H(x, x + ns) \geq \frac{1}{l}d(x, x + ns) = n \frac{d(0, s)}{l} = n.$$

By Theorem 2, $\text{Cayley}(G, S)$ is Ricci-flat.

Case 2. Now we consider the root system of type B_n, C_n and F_4 . Those root systems have two types of lengths. The ratio of the length of the longer root to one of the shorter root is $\sqrt{2}$. In addition, the angle θ formed between a longer root u and a shorter root v is either $\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}$ or $\frac{3\pi}{4}$. We have

$$(4.3) \quad \langle u, v \rangle = \|u\| \|v\| \cos \theta = \epsilon \|v\|^2,$$

where $\epsilon \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$. Let l denote the length of the shorter root. Then the length of the longer root is $\sqrt{2}l$. Equation (4.3) implies for any shorter root v and any root u (whether short or long)

$$\langle u, v \rangle \leq l^2.$$

If s is a longer root, then we have

$$d_H(x, x + ns) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}l}d(x, x + ns) = n \frac{d(0, s)}{\sqrt{2}l} = n.$$

We are done.

If s is a shorter root and $d_H(x, x + ns) = k < n$, then we can find $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k \in S$ such that $ns = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_k$. Taking an inner product

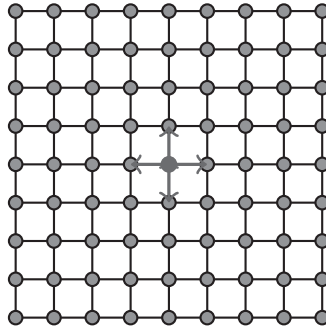


Figure 6: Lattice graph with root system $A_1 + A_1$.

with s , we get

$$nl^2 = \langle ns, s \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k \langle s_i, s \rangle \leq kl^2.$$

We get $k \geq n$. Contradiction!

By Theorem 2, $\text{Cayley}(G, S)$ is always Ricci-flat. □

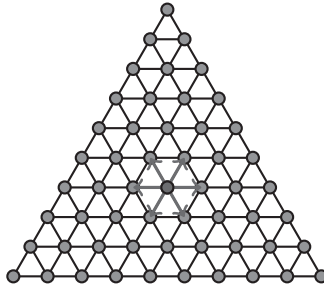
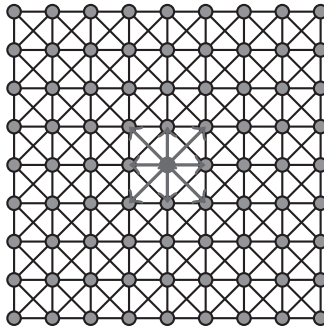
The rank of a root system is the dimension of the underlined Euclidean space. The only rank-1 root system is A_1 , which consists of two roots α and $-\alpha$. The Cayley graph generated by this root system is the infinite path.

The rank-2 root systems R are A_2 , $B_2 = C_2$, $D_2 = A_1 + A_1$ and G_2 . Since G_2 is excluded from Theorem 3. Here we get three lattice graphs $\text{Cayley}(G, R)$. (See figures 6 to 8, where the root systems are drawn in red.) We did not get more lattice graphs by taking a subset $S \subseteq R$. For example, for the root system B_2 and S consisting of three pairs of roots, we get a “skewed” drawing of the graph generated by A_2 . However, for the root system R of rank more than 2, we do get more Ricci-flat lattice graphs by taking proper subset $S \subsetneq R$.

Combining with the strong covering graph, we get the following corollary.

Corollary 4. *Let $H := \text{Cayley}(G, S)$ be the lattice graph constructed in Theorem 3. Let G' be a subgroup of G satisfying “any two elements in G' has a graph distance at least 6 in H .” Define the quotient graph H/G' with vertex-set G/G' and edge-set $u + G' \sim v + G'$ if $u - v \in SG'$. Then H/G' is Ricci-flat.*

We get many examples of finite Ricci-flat graphs, which can be viewed as the discrete analog of torus.

Figure 7: Lattice graph with root system A_2 .Figure 8: Lattice graph with root system B_2 .

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