

Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction	1
1.1. Factorizations of almost simple groups	1
1.2. s -Arc-transitive Cayley graphs	4
1.3. Discussions and some open problems	7
Chapter 2. Preliminaries	9
2.1. Notation	9
2.2. Results on finite simple groups	11
2.3. Elementary facts concerning factorizations	14
2.4. Maximal factorizations of almost simple groups	16
Chapter 3. The factorizations of linear and unitary groups of prime dimension	19
3.1. Singer cycles	19
3.2. Linear groups of prime dimension	21
3.3. Unitary groups of prime dimension	23
Chapter 4. Non-classical groups	25
4.1. The case that both factors are solvable	25
4.2. Exceptional groups of Lie type	26
4.3. Alternating group socles	26
4.4. Sporadic group socles	27
Chapter 5. Examples in classical groups	29
5.1. Examples in unitary groups	29
5.2. Examples in symplectic groups	31
5.3. Examples in orthogonal groups of odd dimension	33
5.4. Examples in orthogonal groups of plus type	34
Chapter 6. Reduction for classical groups	37
6.1. Inductive hypothesis	37
6.2. The case that A has at least two non-solvable composition factors	40
Chapter 7. Proof of Theorem 1.1	43
7.1. Linear groups	43
7.2. Symplectic Groups	45
7.3. Unitary Groups	53
7.4. Orthogonal groups of odd dimension	56
7.5. Orthogonal groups of even dimension	58
7.6. Completion of the proof	65
Chapter 8. s -Arc-transitive Cayley graphs of solvable groups	67

8.1. Preliminaries	67
8.2. A property of finite simple groups	70
8.3. Reduction to affine and almost simple groups	74
8.4. Proof of Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.5	84
Appendix A. Tables for nontrivial maximal factorizations of almost simple classical groups	93
Bibliography	97