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Jean-Claude Bermond

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# Decomposition of $K_n^*$ into $k$ -circuits and Balanced $G$ -designs

*J. C. Bermond*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $K_n^*$  be the complete directed graph with  $n$  vertices, that is, every ordered pair of vertices is joined by exactly one arc. By a  $k$ -circuit we mean a directed elementary circuit of length  $k$ .

We are interested in the following problem: For which values of  $n$  is it possible to partition the arcs of  $K_n^*$  into  $k$ -circuits ( $k \leq n$ ). A necessary condition for such a partition is that the number of arcs is a multiple of  $k$ , that is:  $n(n-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ . We conjecture that this condition is sufficient except for  $n = 6$ ,  $k = 3$ ;  $n = 4 = k$  and  $n = 6 = k$ . In [2], the case  $k = 3$  is solved completely. In a joint paper with V. Faber [5], two methods are developed: An "oriented difference method" and a method of composition using complete directed bipartite graphs. These methods give many results for  $k$  even and, in particular, solve completely the cases  $k = 4, 6, 8, 10$ . By using refinements of the "difference method" we have proved in [3] that the condition is sufficient for  $n = 2k$ , except  $k = 3$ .

In this paper, we develop a "composition method" using lexicographic products. This method gives the complete solution for  $k = 3$  (with a simpler proof than in [2]) and for  $k = 5$ .

Our problem is a special case of the problem of the existence of balanced  $G$ -designs, introduced by P. Hell and A. Rosa [10]. Let  $\lambda K_n$  ( $\lambda K_n^*$ ) be the complete (complete directed) multigraph, with  $n$  vertices, where two vertices are joined by exactly  $\lambda$  edges (arcs) and let  $G$  be a graph (directed graph) with  $k$  vertices; an  $(n, k, \lambda)$   $G$ -design consists of a partition of the edges (arcs) of  $\lambda K_n$  ( $\lambda K_n^*$ ) into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ . Furthermore, if every vertex of  $\lambda K_n$  ( $\lambda K_n^*$ ) belongs to the same number of partial subgraphs,

the  $G$ -design is said to be balanced. If  $G$  is regular, that is, if every vertex of  $G$  belongs to the same number of edges (arcs) of  $G$ , then every  $G$ -design is balanced. In the case  $G = K_k$  an  $(n, k, \lambda)K_k$ -design is nothing else than a B.I.B.D. (balanced incomplete block design) (see M. Hall [8] or H. J. Ryser . The particular case in which  $G$  is a  $k$ -circuit  $\vec{C}_k$  corresponds to our original problem. Other cases have also been studied:  $C_k$ -design,  $C_k$  a  $k$ -cycle (A. Kotzig [17] and A. Rosa [19,20]), balanced  $P_k$ -design,  $P_k$  a  $k$ -chain (chain with  $k$  vertices), which is known under the name of "handcuffed design" (P. Hell and A. Rosa [10], S.H.Y. Hung and N.S. Mendelsohn [13], J.F. Lawless [15,16]),  $G$ -design, where  $G$  is a bipartite graph (C. Huang and A. Rosa [12]),  $G$ -design, where  $G$  is the transitive tournament with 3 vertices (S.H.Y. Hung and N.S. Mendelsohn [14]).

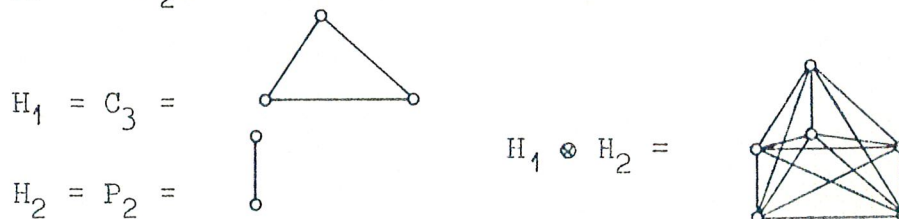
In [3] we have generalized the first two methods to the  $G$ -designs, but the composition method using bipartite graphs applies only in some cases ( $G$  an even cycle or circuit,  $G$  a chain or path). The composition method using the lexicographic product works for all the graphs  $G$ . We will first give the general lemmas, but for the applications we will restrict ourselves to the cases  $G = K_k, P_k$  and  $\vec{C}_k$ , with more emphasis to this last case. (For complements and applications of the methods to packing and covering problems see [3]. For the definitions not given here see C. Berge [1].)

## 2. LEXICOGRAPHIC PRODUCT AND BASIC LEMMAS

DEFINITION. Let  $H_1 = (X_1, U_1)$  and  $H_2 = (X_2, U_2)$  be two (directed) graphs; the lexicographic product (called also composition) of  $H_1$  by  $H_2$ , denoted  $H_1 \otimes H_2$ , is the graph which has the cartesian product  $X_1 \times X_2$  as its set of vertices and in which  $(x_1, x_2)$  is joined to  $(y_1, y_2)$  if and only if  $x_1 y_1$  is an edge (arc) of  $H_1$ , or  $x_1 = y_1$  and  $x_2 y_2$  is an edge (arc) of  $H_2$ .

( $H_1 \otimes H_2$  can be considered as formed by replacing each vertex of  $H_1$  by a copy of  $H_2$ ).

EXAMPLE:



NOTATIONS. We say that the graph  $H$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , if we can partition the edges (arcs) of  $H$  into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ .  $S_n$  will denote a graph formed by  $n$  isolated (independent) vertices.

LEMMA 1. If  $H_1, H_2$  and  $G \otimes S_n$  (where  $n$  is the number of vertices of  $H_2$ ) can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , then  $H_1 \otimes H_2$  can also be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ .

PROOF. Let  $m$  be the number of vertices of  $H_1$  and  $n$  that of  $H_2$ . Then  $H_1 \otimes H_2$  is the edge (arc) disjoint union of  $H_1 \otimes S_n$  and  $S_m \otimes H_2$ .  $S_m \otimes H_2$  is the edge (arc) disjoint union of  $m$  copies of  $H_2$  and can thus be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$  if  $H_2$  can be. If  $H_1$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , then  $H_1 \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G \otimes S_n$  and the lemma follows from the hypothesis of the decomposition of  $G \otimes S_n$ .

PROPOSITION 1. If there exist an  $(m, k, \lambda)$   $G$ -design, an  $(n, k, \lambda)$   $G$ -design and if  $G \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , then there exists an  $(mn, k, \lambda)$   $G$ -design.

PROOF. This result follows from Lemma 1 with  $H_1 = \lambda K_m$  or  $\lambda K_m^*$  and  $H_2 = \lambda K_n$  or  $\lambda K_n^*$ .

In order to apply Proposition 1, we will study the decomposition of  $G \otimes S_n$  for some particular graphs  $G$ .

DEFINITION. (M.Hall [8], chap. 13). An orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$  is a matrix with  $k$  rows,  $n^2$  columns, whose elements, denoted  $a_{i,j}$  ( $i=1, \dots, k; j=1, \dots, n^2$ ), belong to a set  $E$  with  $n$  elements and such that:

$$\forall i, i' \{ (a_{i,j}, a_{i',j}) \text{ with } j = 1, \dots, n^2 \} = E \times E.$$

It is known that an orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$  exists if and only if there exist  $k - 2$  mutually orthogonal Latin squares of order  $n$ .

LEMMA 2.  $K_k \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $K_k$  if and only if there exists an orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$ .

PROOF. (We will only give a sketch of the proof. The reader can refer to [3] or to the equivalence of transversal designs and orthogonal arrays (R.M.Wilson [21,22] or R.C.Bose and S.S.Shrikharde [6]), the blocks of the transversal design playing the role of the subgraphs of the decomposition). Let us identify the set  $E$  of the vertices of  $OA(n,k)$  and the set of the vertices of  $S_n$ ; thus, the vertices of  $K_k \otimes S_n$  are labelled  $(i,e)$  with  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $e \in E$ . The equivalence of the lemma can be obtained by associating to each column  $j$  of  $OA(n,k)$  the complete subgraph  $G_j$ , isomorphic to  $K_k$ , containing the vertices  $(i,a_{ij},j)$  and conversely. Orthogonality is equivalent to the fact that each edge of  $K_k \otimes S_n$  belongs to exactly one  $G_j$ .

PROPOSITION 2. (R.C.Bose and S.S.Shrikharde [7]): If there exist an  $(m,k,\lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an  $(n,k,\lambda)$  B.I.B.D. and an orthogonal array  $OA(n,k)$ , then there exists an  $(mn,k,\lambda)$  B.I.B.D.

PROOF. Follows from Proposition 1 and Lemma 2.

Let  $T_k$  denote any tournament with  $k$  vertices; then by taking an orientation of  $K_k$  that gives  $T_k$ , we obtain the same result as Lemma 2 or Proposition 2 for  $T_k$ -designs:

PROPOSITION 2'. If there exists an  $(m,k,\lambda)$   $T_k$ -design, an  $(n,k,\lambda)$   $T_k$ -design and an  $OA(n,k)$  then there exists an  $(mn,k,\lambda)$   $T_k$ -design.

LEMMA 3.  $\vec{C}_k \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into  $k$ -circuits.

PROOF. This lemma has been proved in [4]. We give here another proof. As the number of arcs of  $\vec{C}_k \times S_n$  is  $kn^2$ , it suffices to exhibit  $n^2$  mutually arc-disjoint  $k$ -circuits. Let the vertices of  $\vec{C}_k$  be the elements of  $Z_k$  and those of  $S_n$  the elements of  $Z_n$ , where  $Z_p$  is the additive group of the integers modulo  $p$ . The following  $n^2$   $k$ -circuits:

$$(0,j) \dots (i,j+i\alpha) \dots (k-2,j+(k-2)\alpha) (k-1,\alpha) (0,j),$$

where  $j \in Z_n$  and  $\alpha \in Z_n$ , are arc-disjoint. Indeed, suppose for example that:

$$(i,j+i\alpha) (i+1, j+(i+1)\alpha) = (i, j'+i\alpha') (i+1, j'+(i+1)\alpha');$$

then  $j+i\alpha = j'+i\alpha'$  and  $j+(i+1)\alpha = j'+(i+1)\alpha'$  and by subtraction  $\alpha = \alpha'$  and  $j = j'$ .

From Lemma 1, Proposition 1 and Lemma 3 we deduce:

PROPOSITION 3. If  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  can be decomposed into  $k$ -circuits, then also  $H_1 \otimes H_2$ . In particular, if there exist an  $(m, k, \lambda) \vec{C}_k$ -design and an  $(n, k, \lambda) \vec{C}_k$ -design then there exists an  $(mn, k, \lambda) \vec{C}_k$ -design.

Similar results can be obtained for the  $k$ -cycle  $C_k$  instead of the  $k$ -circuit  $\vec{C}_k$ .

LEMMA 4.  $P_k \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into  $k$ -chains. (Recall that a  $k$ -chain  $P_k$  is an elementary chain with  $k$  vertices.)

PROOF. Let the vertices of  $P_k$  (resp.  $S_n$ ) be the elements of  $Z_k$  (resp.  $Z_n$ ). Then we have a partition of the edges of  $P_k \otimes S_n$  into the following  $n^2$  edge-disjoint  $k$ -chains:  $(0, j) \dots (i, j + i\alpha) \dots (k-1, j + (k-1)\alpha)$  where  $j \in Z_n$  and  $\alpha \in Z_n$ .

PROPOSITION 4. If there exist an  $(m, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design and an  $(n, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design, then there exists an  $(mn, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design.

REMARK. In the proof of Lemma 4, we notice that the end-vertices of the chains of the decomposition of  $P_k \otimes S_n$  are the vertices  $(0, j)$  and  $(k-1, j)$ ,  $j \in Z_n$  and  $0$  and  $k-1$  are the end-vertices of  $P_k$ . Thus we obtain:

PROPOSITION 4'. (P.Hell and A.Rosa [10], J.F.Lawless [16].) If there exist a balanced  $(m, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design and a balanced  $(n, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design, then there exists a balanced  $(mn, k, \lambda) P_k$ -design.

Similar results can also be obtained for  $k$ -paths  $\vec{P}_k$ .

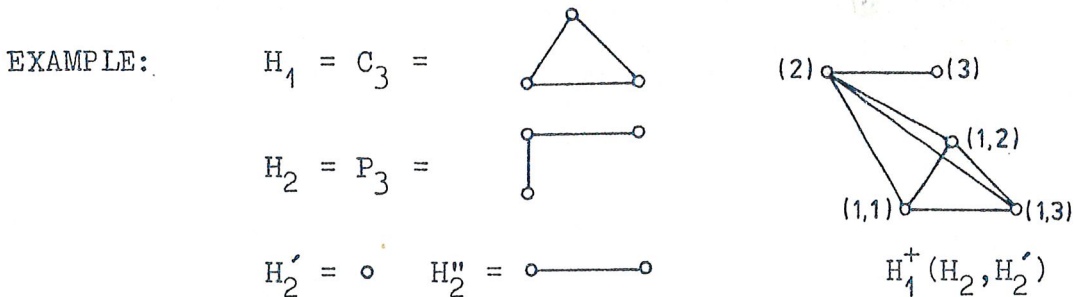
### 3. GENERALIZATION

We shall now consider a generalization of the lexicographic product which we have introduced in [4]. It is obtained by identifying, in  $H_1 \otimes H_2$ ,  $h$  points of each copy of  $H_2$ . The exact definition is:

DEFINITION. Let  $m, n, h$  be three integers. Let  $H_1 = (X_1, U_1)$  be a graph (directed or not) and  $H_2 = (X_2' \cup X_2'', U_2)$  be a graph

(directed or not) with  $|X_2'| = n$  and  $|X_2''| = h$ . The vertices of  $X_2'$  are labelled from 1 to  $n$  and those of  $X_2''$  from  $n+1$  to  $n+h$ . Let  $H_2'$  be the subgraph generated by  $X_2'$  and  $H_2''$  the subgraph generated by  $X_2''$ . We define a new graph  $H_1^+(H_2, H_2')$  as follows: Its vertex set is  $(X_1 \times X_2') \cup X_2''$ ; the vertices are labelled  $(i_1, i_2)$  with  $i_1 = 1, \dots, m$ ;  $i_2 = 1, \dots, n$  if they belong to  $X_1 \times X_2'$  and  $(k)$  with  $k = n+1, \dots, n+h$  if they belong to  $X_2''$ . Two vertices are joined if and only if they are of the form:

- $(i_1, i_2)$  and  $(j_1, j_2)$  with  $i_1 j_1$  an edge (arc) of  $H_1$  or  $i_1 = j_1$  and  $i_2 j_2$  an edge (arc) of  $H_2'$ ;
- $(i_1, i_2)$  and  $(k)$ ,  $(i_2, k)$  being an edge (arc) of  $H_2$ ;
- $(k)$  and  $(k')$ ,  $kk'$  being an edge (arc) of  $H_2''$ .



REMARKS. In the case  $h = 0$ , we obtain the lexicographic product  $H_1 \otimes H_2$ . In general,  $H_1^+(H_2, H_2')$  is the edge (arc) disjoint union of  $H_1 \otimes S_n$ ,  $H_2''$  and  $p$  copies of  $H_2 - H_2''$  (graph obtained from  $H_2$  by deleting the edges (arcs) of  $H_2''$ ). In the particular case  $h = 1$ , that is  $H_2''$  being reduced to one vertex,  $H_1^+(H_2, H_2')$  is the edge (arc)-disjoint union of  $H_1 \otimes S_n$  and  $p$  copies of  $H_2$  (because there is no arc in  $H_2''$ ). From this remark, we obtain exactly as in Lemma 1 the following lemma:

LEMMA 5. If  $H_1, H_2'', G \otimes S_n$  (where  $n$  is the number of vertices of  $H_2'$ ) and  $H_2 - H_2''$  (the graph obtained from  $H_2$  by deleting the arcs of  $H_2''$ ) can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , then  $H_1^+(H_2, H_2')$  can also be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ .

LEMMA 5'. If  $H_1, H_2, G \otimes S_n$  ( $n+1$  being the number of vertices of  $H_2$ ) can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $G$ , then the same is true for  $H_1^+(H_2, \{x\})$ .

By taking  $H_1 = K_m$  or  $K_m^*$ ,  $H_2 = K_{n+h}$  or  $K_{n+h}^*$ ,  $H_2' = K_n$  or  $K_n^*$  and thus  $H_2'' = K_n$  or  $K_n^*$ , we obtain:

PROPOSITION 5. If there exists an  $(m, k, \lambda)$  G-design, an  $(h, k, \lambda)$  G-design and if  $G \otimes S_n$  and  $K_{n+h} - K_n$  or  $K_{n+h}^* - K_n^*$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to G, then there exists an  $(mn + h, k, \lambda)$  G-design.

PROPOSITION 5'. If there exists an  $(m, k, \lambda)$  G-design, an  $(n+1, k, \lambda)$  G-design and if  $G \otimes S_n$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to G, then there exists an  $(mn+1, k, \lambda)$  G-design.

In the case  $G = K_k$ , by using Lemma 2 we obtain:

PROPOSITION 6. If there exists an  $(m, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an  $(h, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$  and if  $K_{n+h} - K_h$  can be decomposed into partial subgraphs isomorphic to  $K_k$ , then there exists an  $(mn+h, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D.

PROPOSITION 6'. (R.C.Bose and S.S.Shrikhande [7].) If there exist an  $(m, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an  $(n+1, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D. and an orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$ , then there exists an  $(mn+1, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D.

Proposition 6 seems to be new and may yield new B.I.B.D.'s. An interesting case of application is the case  $h = k$ ; there always exists a  $(k, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D. and the existence of a decomposition of  $K_{n+k} - K_k$  into  $K_k$  is equivalent to the existence of an  $(n+k, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D. (it suffices to take as  $K_k$  one of the blocks of the B.I.B.D.). Thus we have

COROLLARY. If there exists an  $(m, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an  $(n+k, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D., an orthogonal array  $OA(n, k)$ , then there exists an  $(mn+k, k, \lambda)$  B.I.B.D.

As an example we have the following B.I.B.D.'s that cannot be obtained in [7] (they are known from the work of H.Hanani [9]):

(285, 5, 1) B.I.B.D. by taking  $m = 5, k = 5, n = 56, n + k = 61,$

(232, 4, 1) B.I.B.D. by taking  $m = 4, k = 4, n = 57, n + k = 61.$

In the case  $G = \vec{C}_k$ , by using Lemma 3 we obtain:

PROPOSITION 7. If  $K_m^*, K_h^*$  and  $K_{n+h}^* - K_h^*$  can be decomposed into k-circuits, then  $K_{mn+h}^*$  can be decomposed into k-circuits.

PROPOSITION 7'. If  $K_m^*$  and  $K_{n+1}^*$  can be decomposed into k-circuits, then  $K_{mn+1}^*$  can be decomposed into k-circuits.



We can also obtain similar theorems with  $G = C_k, P_k, \vec{P}_k$  instead of  $\vec{C}_k$ . We shall apply Propositions 3, 7 and 7' to solve completely the case  $k=3$  and 5 of the decomposition of  $K_n^*$  into  $k$ -circuits.

#### 4. DECOMPOSITION OF $K_n^*$ INTO 3-CIRCUITS

We shall prove the following theorem which solves completely the problem of the existence of a decomposition of  $K_n^*$  into 3-circuits (case  $k=3$  of the conjecture of the introduction). This problem was solved in [2] as well as in N.S.Mendelsohn [18], but the proof given here is simpler.

THEOREM 1. Let  $n$  be an integer,  $n \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $n \neq 4, 6$ ; then there exists a decomposition of  $K_n^*$  into 3-circuits, containing two opposite 3-circuits (that is a partial subgraph isomorphic to  $K_3^*$ ).

PROOF. We prove the theorem by induction on  $n$ . The theorem is true for  $n=3$ . For  $n=4$  there exists a decomposition of  $K_4^*$  into 3-circuits, but no decomposition containing a  $K_3^*$ . For  $n=6$  there exists no decomposition of  $K_6^*$  into 3-circuits (see [2]). For  $n=13, 16, 18$  we can find a decomposition containing a  $K_3^*$ : For  $n=13$  by using the  $(13, 3, 1)$  B.I.B.D.; for  $n=16$  and  $18$  by applying the method of [2] with a solution of Kirkman's schoolgirl problem for only  $n=15$ . Suppose that  $n_0$  is an integer,  $n_0 \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$  and that the theorem is true for all  $n < n_0$  ( $n \neq 4, 6$ ) with  $n \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ . We break the proof in four cases depending on the congruences modulo 9.

Case 1:  $n_0 = 3t$  with  $t \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ .

$K_{n_0}^*$  can be decomposed by Proposition 3, with  $m=3$ ,  $n=t$  and by noticing that  $K_{mn}^*$  contains a  $K_3^*$  if at least  $K_m^*$  (or  $K_n^*$ ) contains a  $K_3^*$ . The case  $t=6$ ,  $n_0=18$  is solved above.

Case 2:  $n_0 = 3t + 1$  with  $t \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ .

$K_{n_0}^*$  can be decomposed into 3-circuits by Proposition 7' with  $m=t$ ,  $n=3$  ( $n+1=4$ ). This works except if  $t=4$  or  $6$ . If  $t=4$ ,  $n_0=13$  has been solved above. If  $t=6$ ,  $n_0=19$  and the theorem follows from Proposition 7' with  $m=9$ ,  $n=2$ .

Case 3:  $n_0 = 9k + 7 = 3(3k + 2) + 1$ .

The theorem results from Proposition 7' with  $m=3$ ,  $n=3k+2$ ,

$n + 1 = 3k + 3$ ; except if  $k = 1$ , but in this case  $n_0 = 16$  (solved above).

Case 4:  $n_0 = 9k + 6 = 3(3k + 1) + 3$  with  $k \neq 0$ .

The theorem follows from Proposition 7 with  $m=3$ ,  $h=3$ ,  $n=3k+1$ ,  $n + h = 3k + 4$  and by the induction hypothesis that  $K_{3k+4}^* - K_3^*$  can be decomposed into 3-circuits.

REMARKS. The theorem gives a new proof of the existence of an  $(n,3,2)$  B.I.B.D. If we want to prove the existence of an  $(n,3,2)$  B.I.B.D. or an  $(n,3,1)$   $TT_3$ -design (called directed triple systems by S.H.Y.Hung and N.S.Mendelsohn [14]), the proof is quite the same as the proof of Theorem 1 but simpler because there exists a solution for  $n = 6$ . Indeed, we do not need as induction hypothesis that the decomposition contains a  $K_3^*$ : this was used only in Case 4. In this case if  $k = 2p$ , that is  $n_0 = 18p + 6 = 6(3p + 1)$ , the result follows from Propositions 2' or 3 with  $m = 6$  and  $n = 3p + 1$ . If  $k = 2p + 1$ , that is  $n_0 = 18p + 15 = 2(9p + 7) + 1$ , the result follows from Proposition 5' with  $m = 9p + 7$ ,  $n = 2$ ,  $n + 1 = 3$ . And we need only to start the induction to have the decomposition for  $n = 3, 4, 6$ . Thus we have:

THEOREM 2. If  $n \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$  there exists an  $(n,3,2)$  B.I.B.D. and an  $(n,3,1)$   $TT_3$ -design [14].

The same method has been used by A.J.W.Hilton [11] to obtain a proof of the existence of an  $(n,3,1)$  B.I.B.D. or Steiner triple systems. The method can be used also to have the existence of an  $(n,3,\lambda)$  B.I.B.D. for any  $\lambda$ , or other  $G$ -designs where  $G$  has 3 vertices.

## 5. DECOMPOSITION OF $K_n^*$ INTO 5-CIRCUITS

We shall prove the following theorem:

THEOREM 3.  $K_n^*$  can be decomposed into 5-circuits if and only if  $n \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{5}$ .

PROOF. To prove the theorem we shall use the Propositions 3, 7', 7 called here respectively A, B, C and some lemmas  $D_i$ , whose proofs use the difference method, but are long (the reader can find all these proofs in [3]).

A: If  $K_m^*$  and  $K_n^*$  can be decomposed into 5-circuits, then  $K_{mn}^*$  can be decomposed as well.

B: If  $K_m^*$  and  $K_{n+1}^*$  can be decomposed into 5-circuits, then  $K_{mn+1}^*$  can be decomposed as well.

C: If  $K_m^*$ ,  $K_n^*$  and  $K_{n+h}^* - K_h^*$  can be decomposed into 5-circuits, then  $K_{mn+h}^*$  can be decomposed as well.

D: There exists a decomposition into 5-circuits of:

$D_1: K_5^*$ ;                     $D_2: K_6^*$ ;                     $D_3: K_{10}^* - K_5^*$ ;                     $D_4: K_{10}^* - K_6^*$ .  
 $D_5: K_{11}^* - K_5^*$ ;                     $D_6: K_{11}^* - K_6^*$ ;                     $D_7: K_{15}^*$ ;                     $D_8: K_{16}^* - K_{10}^*$ .  
 $D_9: K_{16}^* - K_6^*$ ;                     $D_{10}: K_{20}^* - K_{10}^*$ ;                     $D_{11}: K_{40}^* - K_{20}^*$ ;                     $D_{12}: K_{45}^* - K_{15}^*$ .  
 (Recall that  $K_{n+h}^* - K_h^*$  means the graph obtained from  $K_{n+h}^*$  by deleting the arcs of a  $K_h^*$ ).

With all these lemmas we can prove the theorem by induction. We shall indicate which propositions or lemmas are used, with the corresponding values.

The theorem is true for

$n = 5$  ( $D_1$ );     $n = 6$  ( $D_2$ );     $n = 10$  ( $D_3$  or  $D_4$ );     $n = 11$  ( $D_5$  or  $D_6$ );  
 $n = 15$  ( $D_7$ );     $n = 16$  ( $D_8$  or  $D_9$ )    and     $n = 20$  ( $D_{10}$ ).

Suppose that  $n_0 \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{5}$  and that the theorem is true for all  $n < n_0$  with  $n \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{5}$ . We break the proof in many cases depending on the congruences modulo 300.

Case 1:     $n_0 = 10t + 1$ ,     $t \geq 2$ .

1.a  $t=2p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ),     $n_0=20p+1$ ,    B:     $m=5p$ ,     $n=4$ .  
 1.b  $t=3p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ),     $n_0=30p+1$ ,    B:     $m=6$ ,     $n=5p$ .  
 1.c  $t=3p+1$  ( $p \geq 1$ ),     $n_0=30p+11$ ,    C,  $D_5$ :     $m=5p+1$ ,     $n=6$ ,     $h=5$ .  
 1.d it remains  $t \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$   
      $t=30k+5$ ,                     $n_0=300k+51$ ,    B:     $m=60k+10$ ,     $n=5$ .  
      $t=30k+11$ ,                     $n_0=300k+111$ ,    B:     $m=30k+11$ ,     $n=10$ .  
      $t=30k+17$ ,                     $n_0=300k+171$ ,    B:     $m=5$ ,     $n=60k+34$ .  
      $t=30k+23$ ,                     $n_0=300k+231$ ,    B:     $m=60k+46$ ,     $n=5$ .  
      $t=30k+29$ ,                     $n_0=300k+291$ ,    B:     $m=10$ ,     $n=30k+29$ .  
     .                    .

Case 2:     $n_0 = 10t + 5$ ,     $t \geq 2$ .

2.a  $t=2p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ),     $n_0=20p+5$ ,    B:     $m=5p+1$ ,     $n=4$ .  
 2.b  $t=3p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ),     $n_0=30p+5$ ,    C,  $D_5$ :     $m=5p$ ,     $n=6$ ,     $h=5$ .  
 2.c  $t=3p+2$ ,                     $n_0=30p+25$ ,    B:     $m=6$ ,     $n=5p+4$ .  
 2.d it remains  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$

$t=30k+4,$	$n_0=300k+15,$	A:	$m=15,$	$n=20k+4.$
$t=30k+7,$	$n_0=300k+75,$	A:	$m=15,$	$n=20k+5.$
$t=30k+13.$	$n_0=300k+135,$	$C, D_3:$	$m=60k+26,$	$n=5,$ $h=5.$
$t=30k+19,$	$n_0=300k+195,$	$C, D_{12}:$	$m=10k+6,$	$n=30,$ $h=15.$
$t=30k+25,$	$n_0=300k+255,$	A:	$m=5,$	$n=60k+51.$

Case 3:  $n_0 = 10t + 6, \quad t \geq 2.$

3.a	$t=2p \ (p \geq 1),$	$n_0=20p+6,$	$C, D_4:$	$m=5p,$	$n=4,$	$h=6.$
3.b	$t=3p \ (p \geq 1),$	$n_0=30p+6,$	A:	$m=6,$	$n=5p+1.$	
3.c	$t=3p+1 \ (p \geq 1),$	$n_0=30p+16,$	$C, D_8:$	$m=5p+1,$	$n=6,$	$h=10.$
3.d	it remains $t \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$					
	$t=30k+5,$	$n_0=300k+56,$	B:	$m=60k+11,$	$n=5.$	
	$t=30k+11,$	$n_0=300k+116,$	$C, D_9:$	$m=30k+11,$	$n=10,$	$h=6.$
	$t=30k+17,$	$n_0=300k+176,$	B:	$m=60k+35,$	$n=5.$	
	$t=30k+23,$	$n_0=300k+236,$	$C, D_6:$	$m=60k+46,$	$n=5,$	$h=6.$
	$t=30k+29,$	$n_0=300k+296,$	B:	$m=5,$	$n=60k+59.$	

Case 4:  $n_0 = 10t + 10, \quad t \geq 2.$

4.a	$t=2p \ (p \geq 1),$	$n_0=20p+10,$	$C, D_4:$	$m=5p+1,$	$n=4,$	$h=6.$
4.b	$t=3p \ (p \geq 1),$	$n_0=30p+10,$	$C, D_8:$	$m=5p,$	$n=6,$	$h=10.$
4.c	$t=3p+2,$	$n_0=30p+30,$	A:	$m=6,$	$n=5p+5.$	
4.d	it remains $t \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$					
	$t=30k+1,$	$n_0=300k+20,$	A:	$m=20,$	$n=15k+4.$	
	$t=30k+7,$	$n_0=300k+80,$	A:	$m=5,$	$n=60k+16.$	
	$t=30k+13,$	$n_0=300k+140,$	$C, D_{11}:$	$m=15k+6,$	$n=20,$	$h=20.$
	$t=30k+19,$	$n_0=300k+200,$	A:	$m=5,$	$n=60k+40.$	
	$t=30k+25,$	$n_0=300k+260,$	A:	$m=10,$	$n=30k+26.$	

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