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Octahedral, dicyclic and special linear solutions of some Hamilton-Waterloo problems

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Abstract

We give a sharply-vertex-transitive solution of each of the nine Hamilton-Waterloo problems left open by Danziger, Quattrocchi and Stevens.

Keywords: Hamilton-Waterloo problem, group action, octahedral binary group, dicyclic group, special linear group.

Math. Subj. Class.: 05C70, 05E18, 05B10

1 Introduction

A cycle decomposition of a simple graph $\Gamma = (V, E)$ is a set \mathcal{D} of cycles whose edges partition E. A partition \mathcal{F} of \mathcal{D} into classes (2-*factors*) each of which covers all V exactly once is said to be a 2-*factorization* of Γ . The *type* of a 2-factor F is the partition $\pi = [\ell_1^{n_1}, \ldots, \ell_t^{n_t}]$ (written in exponential notation) of the integer |V| into the lengths of the cycles of F.

A 2-factorization \mathcal{F} of K_v (the complete graph of order v) or $K_v - I$ (the cocktail party graph of order v) whose 2-factors are all of the same type π is a solution of the so-called Oberwolfach Problem $OP(v; \pi)$. If instead the 2-factors of \mathcal{F} are of two different types π and ψ , then \mathcal{F} is a solution of the so-called Hamilton-Waterloo Problem HWP $(v; \pi, \psi; r, s)$ where r and s denote the number of 2-factors of \mathcal{F} of type π and ψ , respectively.

A complete solution of the OPs whose 2-factors are uniform, namely of the form $OP(\ell n; [\ell^n])$, has been given in [1] and [12]. Other important classes of OPs has been

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solved in [4, 15]. For the time being, to look for a solution to all possible OPs and, above all, HWPs is too ambitious. Anyway it is reasonable to believe that we are not so far from a complete solution of the HWPs whose 2-factors are uniform, namely of the form $HWP(v; [h^{v/h}], [w^{v/w}]; r, s)$. We can say this especially because of the big progress recently done in [10].

Danziger, Quattrocchi and Stevens [11] treated the HWPs whose 2-factors are either triangle-factors or quadrangle-factors, they namely studied HWP $(12n; [3^{4n}], [4^{3n}]; r, s)$. In the following such an HWP will be denoted, more simply, by HWP(12n; 3, 4; r, s). They solved this problem for all possible triples (n, r, s) except the following ones:

- (i) (4, r, 23 r) with $r \in \{5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17\}$;
- (ii) (2, r, 11 r) with $r \in \{5, 7, 9\}$.

Six of the nine above problems have been recently solved in [14] where it was pointed out that all nine problems were also solved in a work still in preparation [2] by the authors of the present paper. Meanwhile, a solution for each of the remaining three problems not considered in [14] have been given in [16]. Notwithstanding, in the present paper we want to present our solutions to the nine HWPs left open by Danziger, Quattrocchi and Stevens in detail. These solutions, differently from those of [14, 16], are full of symmetries since they are *G*-regular for a suitable group *G*. We recall that a cycle decomposition (or 2factorization) of a graph Γ is said to be *G*-regular when it admits *G* as an automorphism group acting sharply transitively on all vertices. Here is explicitly our main result:

Theorem 1.1. There exists a \overline{O} -regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ having r triangle-factors and 23 - r quadrangle-factors where \overline{O} is the binary octahedral group and $r \in \{5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17\}$.

There exists a Q_{24} -regular 2-factorization of $K_{24} - I$ having r triangle-factors and 11 - r quadrangle-factors where Q_{24} is the dicyclic group of order 24 and $r \in \{7, 9\}$.

There exists a $SL_2(3)$ -regular 2-factorization of $K_{24} - I$ having six triangle-factors and five quadrangle-factors where $SL_2(3)$ is the 2-dimensional special linear group over \mathbb{Z}_3 .

2 Some preliminaries

The use of the *classic* method of differences allowed to get cyclic (namely Z_v -regular) solutions of some HWPs in [8, 9, 13]. Now we summarize, in the shortest possible way, the method of *partial differences*. This method, explained in [7] and successfully applied in many papers (see, especially, [6]), has been also useful for the investigation of *G*-regular 2-factorizations of a complete graph of odd order [9]. The *G*-regular 2-factorizations of a cocktail party graph can be treated similarly.

Throughout this paper any group G will be assumed to be written multiplicatively and its identity element will be denoted by 1. Let Ω be a symmetric subset of a group G; this means that $1 \notin \Omega$ and that $\omega \in \Omega$ if and only if $\omega^{-1} \in \Omega$. The Cayley graph on G with connection-set Ω , denoted by $\operatorname{Cay}[G : \Omega]$, is the simple graph whose vertices are the elements of G and whose edges are all 2-subsets of G of the form $\{g, \omega g\}$ with $(g, \omega) \in G \times \Omega$.

Remark 2.1. If λ is an involution of a group G, then $\operatorname{Cay}[G : G \setminus \{1, \lambda\}]$ is isomorphic to $K_{|G|} - I$. So, in the following, such a Cayley graph will be always identified with the cocktail party graph of order |G|.

Let Cycle(G) be the set of all cycles with vertices in G and consider the natural right action of G on Cycle(G) defined by $(c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n)^g = (c_1g, c_2g, \ldots, c_ng)$ for every $C = (c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n) \in Cycle(G)$ and every $g \in G$. The stabilizer and the orbit of any $C \in Cycle(G)$ under this action will be denoted by Stab(C) and Orb(C), respectively. The *list of differences* of $C \in Cycle(G)$ is the multiset ΔC of all possible quotients xy^{-1} with (x, y) an ordered pair of adjacent vertices of C. One can see that the multiplicity $m_{\Delta C}(g)$ of any element $g \in G$ in ΔC is a multiple of the order of Stab(C). Thus it makes sense to speak of the *list of partial differences* of C as the multiset ∂C on G in which the multiplicity of any $g \in G$ is defined by

$$m_{\partial C}(g) := \frac{m_{\Delta C}(g)}{|Stab(C)|}.$$

We underline the fact that ∂C is, in general, a multiset. Note that if ∂C is a set, namely without repeated elements, then it is symmetric so that it makes sense to speak of the Cayley graph Cay[$G : \partial C$]. The following elementary but crucial result holds.

Lemma 2.2. If $C \in Cycle(G)$ and ∂C does not have repeated elements, then Orb(C) is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $Cay[G : \partial C]$.

By Remark 2.1, as an immediate consequence of the above lemma we can state the following result.

Theorem 2.3. Let λ be an involution of a group G. If $\{C_1, \ldots, C_t\}$ is a subset of Cycle(G) such that $\bigcup_{i=1}^t \partial C_i = G \setminus \{1, \lambda\}$, then $\bigcup_{i=1}^t Orb(C_i)$ is a G-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{|G|} - I$.

We need, as last ingredient, the following easy remarks.

Remark 2.4. If $C \in Cycle(G)$ and V(C) is a subgroup of G, then Orb(C) is a 2-factor of the complete graph on G whose stabilizer is the whole G.

If C_1, \ldots, C_t are cycles of Cycle(G) and $\bigcup_{i=1}^t V(C_i)$ is a complete system of representatives for the left cosets of a subgroup S of G, then $\bigcup_{i=1}^t Orb_S(C_i)$ is a 2-factor of the complete graph on G whose stabilizer is S.

3 Octahedral solutions of six Hamilton-Waterloo problems

Throughout this section G will denote the so-called *binary octahedral group* which is usually denoted by \overline{O} . This group, up to isomorphism, can be viewed as a group of units of the skew-field \mathbb{H} of *quaternions* introduced by Hamilton, that is an extension of the complex field \mathbb{C} . We recall the basic facts regarding \mathbb{H} . Its elements are all real linear combinations of 1, *i*, *j* and *k*. The sum and the product of two quaternions are defined in the natural way under the rules that

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1.$$

If $q = a + bi + cj + dk \neq 0$, then the inverse of q is given by

$$q^{-1} = \frac{a - bi - cj - dk}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2}.$$

The 48 elements of the multiplicative group G are the following:

$$\begin{split} & \pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k; \\ & \frac{1}{2} (\pm 1 \pm i \pm j \pm k); \\ & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm x \pm y), \quad \{x, y\} \in {\binom{\{1, i, j, k\}}{2}}. \end{split}$$

The use of the octahedral group G was crucial in [3] to get a Steiner triple system of any order v = 96n + 49 with an automorphism group acting sharply transitively an all but one point. Here G will be used to get a G-regular solution of each of the six Hamilton-Waterloo problems of order 48 left open in [11]. We will need to consider the following subgroups of G of order 16 and 12, respectively:

•
$$K = \langle k, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j-k) \rangle;$$

• $L = \langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j-k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k) \rangle.$

3.1 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 5, 18)

Consider the nine cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$\begin{split} C_1 &= \left(1, \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k)\right)\\ C_2 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j-k)\right)\\ C_3 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i-j+k)\right)\\ C_4 &= \left(1, \ k, \ -1, \ -k\right)\\ C_5 &= \left(1, \ j, \ -1, \ -j\right)\\ C_6 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), \ -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k)\right)\\ C_7 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\right)\\ C_8 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \ k, \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)\\ C_9 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k)\right) \end{split}$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $2 \le i \le 5$ while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_1 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1-k), \frac{1}{2} (1-i-j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1+i) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{ \frac{1}{2} (-1-i+j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{ \frac{1}{2} (-1+i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{ k \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{ j \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-i+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{split} \Omega_7 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_8 &= \{\frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_9 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k)\}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

One can see that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{9} Orb_G(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$ where

$$S_i = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } i = 1; \\ G & \text{for } 2 \le i \le 5; \\ L & \text{for } 6 \le i \le 9. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $Stab(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether i = 1, or $2 \le i \le 5$, or $6 \le i \le 9$, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \le 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{9} Orb(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 5 triangle-factors and 18 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 5, 18).

3.2 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 7, 16)

Consider the seven cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$\begin{split} C_1 &= \left(1, \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j+k)\right) \\ C_2 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k)\right) \\ C_3 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i-j+k)\right) \\ C_4 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1+i+j-k), \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k)\right) \\ C_5 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i)\right) \\ C_6 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+k), \ -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right) \\ C_7 &= \left(1, \ -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\right) \end{split}$$

We note that $Stab(C_3) = V(C_3)$ while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), -j, \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1+j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_7 &= \{ -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), -i, -k, \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

One can see that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{7} Orb_G(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$ where

$$S_i = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } i = 1, 2; \\ G & \text{for } i = 3; \\ L & \text{for } 4 \le i \le 7. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether i = 1, 2 or i = 3 or $4 \le i \le 7$, respectively.

The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{7} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a G-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 7 triangle-factors and 16 quadrangle-factors, namely a G-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 7, 16).

3.3 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 9, 14)

Consider the eight cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k)\right)$$

$$C_{2} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)$$

$$C_{3} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j+k)\right)$$

$$C_{4} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k)\right)$$

$$C_{5} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k)\right)$$

$$C_{6} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\right)$$

$$C_{7} = \left(1, k, -1, -k\right)$$

$$C_{8} = \left(1, j, -1, -j\right)$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for i = 7, 8 while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. By Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1+i)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{\frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i-j+k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_7 &= \{k\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_8 &= \{j\}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Now note that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{8} Orb(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$

where

$$S_{i} = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } 1 \le i \le 3; \\ L & \text{for } 4 \le i \le 6; \\ G & \text{for } i = 7, 8. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 4 or 1 according to whether $1 \le i \le 3$ or $4 \le i \le 6$ or i = 7, 8, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \le 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{8} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 9 triangle-factors and 14 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 9, 14).

3.4 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 13, 10)

Consider the nine cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)$$

$$C_{2} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k)\right)$$

$$C_{3} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k)\right)$$

$$C_{4} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-k)\right)$$

$$C_{5} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j-k)\right)$$

$$C_{6} = \left(1, k, -1, -k\right)$$

$$C_{7} = \left(1, j, -1, -j\right)$$

$$C_{8} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)$$

$$C_{9} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+k), -k, \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k)\right)$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $5 \le i \le 7$ while all other C_i 's have trivial G-stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j), \frac{1}{2}(1+i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+j), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \{ k \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_7 &= \{ j \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_8 &= \{ -\frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1+i), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_9 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Now note that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{9} Orb(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$ where

$$S_{i} = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } 1 \le i \le 4; \\ G & \text{for } 5 \le i \le 7; \\ L & \text{for } i = 8, 9. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether $1 \le i \le 4$ or $5 \le i \le 7$ or i = 8, 9, respectively.

The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 5$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{9} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 13 triangle-factors and 10 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 13, 10).

3.5 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 15, 8)

Consider the seven cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$\begin{split} C_1 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k)\right)\\ C_2 &= \left(1, \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)\\ C_3 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j+k)\right)\\ C_4 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(1+i+j+k), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)\\ C_5 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-k)\right)\\ C_6 &= \left(1, \ -j, \ k, \ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k)\right)\\ C_7 &= \left(1, \ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i-j), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k), \ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k)\right) \end{split}$$

Here, every C_i has trivial stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (i+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-j+k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \left\{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (i+j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1+j), \frac{1}{2} (1+i+j-k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (-1+i+j-k), \frac{1}{2} (1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2} (-1-i+j-k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (1+i+j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1+j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1+i) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (1-i+j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (i-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (j+k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \left\{ -j, +i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1-k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_7 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (i-j), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1+i), +k, \frac{1}{2} (-1+i+j+k) \right\}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Now note that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^7 Orb(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$ where

$$S_i = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } 1 \le i \le 5; \\ L & \text{for } i = 6, 7. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 4 according to whether $1 \le i \le 5$ or i = 6, 7, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \le 5$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^7 Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 15 triangle-factors and 8 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 15, 8).

3.6 An octahedral solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 17, 6)

Consider the ten cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k)\right)$$

$$C_{2} = \left(1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k)\right)$$

$$C_{3} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)\right)$$

$$C_{4} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k)\right)$$

$$C_{5} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-j)\right)$$

$$C_{6} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j-k)\right)$$

$$C_{7} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i-j+k)\right)$$

$$C_{8} = \left(1, k, -1, -k\right)$$

$$C_{9} = \left(1, j, -1, -j\right)$$

$$C_{10} = \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)\right)$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $6 \le i \le 9$ while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1+i) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_7 &= \{ \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k) \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_8 &= \{ k \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_9 &= \{ j \}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_{10} &= \{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k) \}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Now note that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, -1\}$. Thus, by Lemma 2.2 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{10} Orb(C_i)$ is a G-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$. Set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$

where

$$S_i = \begin{cases} K & \text{for } 1 \le i \le 5; \\ G & \text{for } 6 \le i \le 9; \\ L & \text{for } i = 10. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of K_{48} with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether $1 \le i \le 5$ or $6 \le i \le 9$ or i = 10, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \le 7$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{10} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ with 17 triangle-factors and 6 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(48; 3, 4; 17, 6).

4 Dicyclic solutions of two Hamilton-Waterloo problems

In this section G will denote the dicyclic group of order 24 which is usually denoted by Q_{24} . Thus G has the following presentation:

$$G = \langle a, b | a^{12} = 1, b^2 = a^6, b^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \rangle$$

Note that the elements of G can be written in the form $a^i b^j$ with $0 \le i \le 11$ and j = 0, 1. The group G has a unique involution which is a^6 and we will need to consider the following subgroups of G:

• $H = \langle b \rangle = \{1, b, a^6, a^6b\};$

•
$$K = \langle a^2 \rangle = \{1, a^2, a^4, a^6, a^8, a^{10}\};$$

• $L = \langle a^2 b, a^3 \rangle = \{1, a^3, a^6, a^9, a^2 b, a^8 b, a^5 b, a^{11} b\}.$

4.1 A dicyclic solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 7, 4)

Consider the four cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = (1, a^{3}b, a^{5})$$

$$C_{2} = (1, a^{10}, a^{7}b)$$

$$C_{3} = (1, a^{4}, a^{8})$$

$$C_{4} = (1, b, a^{3}b, a)$$

We note that the $Stab(C_3) = V(C_3)$ while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. Thus, by Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \{a^3b, a^5, a^2b\}^{\pm 1}\\ \Omega_2 &= \{a^2, ab, a^5b\}^{\pm 1}\\ \Omega_3 &= \{a^4\}^{\pm 1}\\ \Omega_4 &= \{b, a^3, a^4b, a\}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Now note that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, a^6\}$. Thus, by Theorem 2.3 we can say that $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^4 Orb(C_i)$ is a G-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{24} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$

where

$$S_i = \begin{cases} L & \text{for } i = 1, 2; \\ G & \text{for } i = 3; \\ K & \text{for } i = 4. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{24} - I$ with $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $Orb_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether i = 1, 2 or i = 3 or i = 4, respectively.

The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{4} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a G-regular 2-factorization of $K_{24} - I$ with 7 triangle-factors and 4 quadrangle-factors, namely a G-regular solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 7, 4).

4.2 A dicyclic solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 9, 2)

Consider the four cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = (1, b, a^{\circ}, a^{\circ}b)$$

$$C_{2} = (1, a^{4}b, a^{6}, a^{10}b)$$

$$C_{3} = (1, a^{4}, a^{7}b)$$

$$C_{4} = (1, a^{3}b, a^{8}b)$$

$$C_{5} = (a^{4}, a^{7}, a^{5})$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for i = 1, 2 while all other C_i 's have trivial stabilizer. By Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\Omega_{1} = \{b\}^{\pm 1}$$

$$\Omega_{2} = \{a^{4}b\}^{\pm 1}$$

$$\Omega_{3} = \{a^{4}, ab, a^{5}b\}^{\pm 1}$$

$$\Omega_{4} = \{a^{3}b, a^{2}b, a^{5}\}^{\pm 1}$$

$$\Omega_{5} = \{a^{1}, a^{2}, a^{3}\}^{\pm 1}$$

Also here the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{1, a^6\}$, hence $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^5 Orb_G(C_i)$ is a G-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{24} - I$ by Theorem 2.3. Now set:

$$F_1 = Orb_G(C_1), \quad F_2 = Orb_G(C_2),$$

$$F_3 = Orb_L(C_3), \quad F_4 = Orb_H(C_4) \cup Orb_H(C_5).$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{24} - I$ and we have

$$Stab_G(F_1) = Stab_G(F_2) = G;$$
 $Stab_G(F_3) = L;$ $Stab_G(F_4) = H$

so that the lengths of the *G*-orbits of F_1, \ldots, F_4 are 1, 1, 3 and 6, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \ge 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^5 Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{24} - I$ with 9 triangle-factors and 2 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 9, 2).

5 A special linear solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 5, 6)

In this section G will denote the 2-dimensional special linear group over \mathbb{Z}_3 , usually denoted by $SL_2(3)$, namely the group of 2×2 matrices with elements in \mathbb{Z}_3 and determinant one. The only involution of G is 2E where E is the identity matrix of G. The 2-Sylow subgroup Q of G, isomorphic to the group of quaternions, is the following:

$$Q = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

We will also need to consider the subgroup H of G of order 6 generated by the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Hence we have:

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

The use of the special linear group G was crucial in [5] to get a Steiner triple system of any order v = 144n + 25 with an automorphism group acting sharply transitively an all but one point. Here G will be used to get a G-regular solution of the last Hamilton-Waterloo problem left open in [11].

Consider the six cycles of Cycle(G) defined as follows.

$$C_{1} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$C_{2} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$C_{3} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$C_{4} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$C_{5} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$C_{6} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Here the stabilizer of C_i is trivial for i = 1, 6 while it coincides with $V(C_i)$ for $2 \le i \le 5$. By Lemma 2.2, one can check that $Orb(C_i)$ is a ℓ_i -cycle decomposition of $Cay[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{split} \Omega_1 &= \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \quad \Omega_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \quad \Omega_5 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_6 &= \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}^{\pm 1} \end{split}$$

Once again we see that the Ω_i 's partition $G \setminus \{E, 2E\}$, therefore $\mathcal{C} := \bigcup_{i=1}^6 Orb(C_i)$ is a *G*-regular cycle-decomposition of $K_{24} - I$. Now set $F_i = Orb_{S_i}(C_i)$ with

$$S_i = \begin{cases} Q & \text{for } i = 1; \\ G & \text{for } 2 \le i \le 5; \\ H & \text{for } i = 6. \end{cases}$$

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{24} - I$ and we have $Stab_G(F_i) = S_i$ so that the lengths of the *G*-orbits of F_1, \ldots, F_6 are 3, 1, 1, 1, 1 and 4, respectively.

The cycles of F_i have length 3 or 4 according to whether or not $i \leq 3$. Thus, recalling that C is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{24} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^{6} Orb_G(F_i)$ is a *G*-regular 2-factorization of $K_{24} - I$ with 5 triangle-factors and 6 quadrangle-factors, namely a *G*-regular solution of HWP(24; 3, 4; 5, 6).

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