

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.

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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 $\pi = [\ell_1^{n_1}, \dots, \ell_t^{n_t}]$ (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 $\text{HWP}(v; [h^{v/h}], [w^{v/w}]; r, s)$. 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 $\text{HWP}(12n; [3^{4n}], [4^{3n}]; r, s)$. In the following such an HWP will be denoted, more simply, by $\text{HWP}(12n; 3, 4; r, s)$. 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 2-factorization) 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 \bar{O} -regular 2-factorization of $K_{48} - I$ having r triangle-factors and $23 - r$ quadrangle-factors where \bar{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 $\text{Cay}[G : \Omega]$, 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 $\text{Cay}[G : G \setminus \{1, \lambda\}]$ 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 $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)^g = (c_1g, c_2g, \dots, c_ng)$ for every $C = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in Cycle(G)$ 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 $\text{Cay}[G : \partial C]$. 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 $\text{Cay}[G : \partial C]$.*

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 $\{C_1, \dots, C_t\}$ 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, \dots, 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 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:

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

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 on 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.

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

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $2 \leq i \leq 5$ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

3.2 An octahedral solution of $\text{HWP}(48; 3, 4; 7, 16)$

Consider the seven cycles of $\text{Cycle}(G)$ defined as follows.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 3$. Thus, recalling that \mathcal{C} is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^7 \text{Orb}_G(F_i)$ 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 $\text{Cycle}(G)$ defined as follows.

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

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

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

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

where

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

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 $1 \leq i \leq 3$ or $4 \leq i \leq 6$ or $i = 7, 8$, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 3$. Thus, recalling that \mathcal{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.

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

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $5 \leq i \leq 7$ 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.

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

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

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

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{48} - I$ with $\text{Stab}_G(F_i) = S_i$, hence $\text{Orb}_G(F_i)$ has length 3 or 1 or 4 according to whether $1 \leq i \leq 4$ or $5 \leq i \leq 7$ 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 \mathcal{C} is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{48} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^9 \text{Orb}_G(F_i)$ 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 $\text{Cycle}(G)$ defined as follows.

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

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

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

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

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

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 $1 \leq i \leq 5$ or $i = 6, 7$, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 5$. Thus, recalling that \mathcal{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.

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= (1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+k)) \\ C_2 &= (1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(i+j), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j+k)) \\ C_3 &= (1, \frac{1}{2}(1+i-j-k), -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+j)) \\ C_4 &= (1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+j), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-i+k)) \\ C_5 &= (1, \frac{1}{2}(1-i+j-k), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-j)) \\ C_6 &= (1, \frac{1}{2}(-1-i+j+k), \frac{1}{2}(-1+i-j-k)) \\ C_7 &= (1, \frac{1}{2}(-1+i+j-k), \frac{1}{2}(-1-i-j+k)) \\ C_8 &= (1, k, -1, -k) \\ C_9 &= (1, j, -1, -j) \\ C_{10} &= (1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1-i), \frac{1}{2}(1-i-j+k)) \end{aligned}$$

We note that $Stab(C_i) = V(C_i)$ for $6 \leq i \leq 9$ 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.

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

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

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

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 $1 \leq i \leq 5$ or $6 \leq i \leq 9$ or $i = 10$, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \leq 7$. Thus, recalling that \mathcal{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:

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

Note that the elements of G can be written in the form $a^i b^j$ with $0 \leq i \leq 11$ 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 :

- $H = \langle b \rangle = \{1, b, a^6, a^6 b\}$;
- $K = \langle a^2 \rangle = \{1, a^2, a^4, a^6, a^8, a^{10}\}$;
- $L = \langle a^2 b, a^3 \rangle = \{1, a^3, a^6, a^9, a^2 b, a^8 b, a^5 b, a^{11} b\}$.

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= (1, a^3 b, a^5) \\ C_2 &= (1, a^{10}, a^7 b) \\ C_3 &= (1, a^4, a^8) \\ C_4 &= (1, b, a^3 b, a) \end{aligned}$$

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.

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

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 \mathcal{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.

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= (1, b, a^6, a^6b) \\ C_2 &= (1, a^4b, a^6, a^{10}b) \\ C_3 &= (1, a^4, a^7b) \\ C_4 &= (1, a^3b, a^8b) \\ C_5 &= (a^4, a^7, a^5) \end{aligned}$$

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 $\text{Cay}[G : \Omega_i]$ where ℓ_i is the length of C_i and where the Ω_i 's are the symmetric subsets of G listed below.

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_1 &= \{b\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_2 &= \{a^4b\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_3 &= \{a^4, ab, a^5b\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_4 &= \{a^3b, a^2b, a^5\}^{\pm 1} \\ \Omega_5 &= \{a^1, a^2, a^3\}^{\pm 1} \end{aligned}$$

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:

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= Orb_G(C_1), & F_2 &= Orb_G(C_2), \\ F_3 &= Orb_L(C_3), & F_4 &= Orb_H(C_4) \cup Orb_H(C_5). \end{aligned}$$

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

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

so that the lengths of the G -orbits of F_1, \dots, F_4 are 1, 1, 3 and 6, respectively. The cycles of F_i are triangles or quadrangles according to whether or not $i \geq 3$. Thus, recalling that \mathcal{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 on 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.

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ C_2 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ C_3 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ C_4 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ C_5 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ C_6 &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Here the stabilizer of C_i is trivial for $i = 1, 6$ while it coincides with $V(C_i)$ for $2 \leq i \leq 5$. 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.

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

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

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

By Remark 2.4, each F_i is a 2-factor of $K_{24} - I$ and we have $\text{Stab}_G(F_i) = S_i$ so that the lengths of the G -orbits of F_1, \dots, 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 \mathcal{C} is a cycle-decomposition of $K_{24} - I$, we conclude that $\mathcal{F} := \bigcup_{i=1}^6 \text{Orb}_G(F_i)$ 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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