

## REGULAR GROUP DIVISIBLE DESIGNS AND BHASKAR RAO DESIGNS WITH BLOCK SIZE THREE

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*Abstract:* Some recursive constructions are given for Bhaskar Rao designs. Using examples of these designs found by Shyam J. Singh, Rakesh Vyas and new ones given here we show the necessary conditions  $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ,  $\lambda v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{24}$  are sufficient for the existence of Bhaskar Rao designs with one association class and block size 3. This result is used with a result of Street and Rodger to obtain regular partially balanced block designs with  $2v$  treatments, block size 3,  $\lambda_1 = 0$ , group size 2 and  $v$  groups.

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Bhaskar Rao designs with elements  $0, \pm 1$  have been studied by a number of authors including Bhaskar Rao (1966, 1970), Singh (1982), Sinha (1978), Street (1981), Street and Rodger (1980), Vyas (1982) and Seberry (1978). Bhaskar Rao (1966) used these designs to construct partially balanced designs and this was improved by Street and Rodger (1980). In this paper we show the necessary conditions are sufficient for Bhaskar Rao designs with one association class when  $k = 3$ .

### 1. Preliminaries

For the definitions of regular group divisible designs, partially balanced incomplete block designs and mutually orthogonal latin squares we refer the reader to Raghavarao (1970).

Suppose  $X = A - B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are  $v \times b$   $(0, 1)$  matrices, and the Hadamard product of  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $A * B$ , is zero. Then  $X$  is a *Bhaskar Rao design* or *BRD*, if

$$(i) \quad XX^T = rI + \sum_{i=1}^m c_i B_i,$$

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(ii)  $N=A+B$  satisfies  $NN^T = rI + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i B_i$  (that is,  $N$  is the incidence matrix of a PBIBD( $m$ )).

Such a matrix will be denoted by  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m; c_1, \dots, c_m)$ . In this paper we shall only be concerned with  $c=0$ ,  $m=1$  and  $B_1=J-I$  in this case  $N$  is the incidence matrix of a PBIBD(1) that is a BIBD. So the equations become

$$(i) \quad XX^T = rI,$$

$$(ii) \quad NN^T = (r-\lambda)I + \lambda J,$$

and  $X$  is a  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; \lambda)$ . Since  $\lambda(v-1) = r(k-1)$  and  $bk = vr$  we sometimes use the notation  $\text{BRD}(v, k, \lambda)$ .

These designs have been considered by several authors. They are a generalization of weighing matrices (Geramita and Seberry (1979)) and useful in the construction of PBIBD.

First we give a necessary condition which is slightly stronger than that given in Bhaskar Rao (1970) and less comprehensive than that given in Street and Rodger (1980):

**Theorem 1.** *A Bhaskar Rao design  $W = \text{BRD}(v, k, \lambda)$  can only exist if the equations*

$$(i) \quad x_3 + 3x_5 + 6x_7 + \dots + ((k^2-1)/8)x_k = b(k-1)/8 \text{ for } k \text{ odd,}$$

$$(ii) \quad -x_0 + 3x_4 + 8x_6 + \dots + ((k^2-4)/4)x_k = b(k-4)/4 \text{ for } k \text{ even,}$$

*have integral solutions. In particular for  $k=3$  a Bhaskar Rao design can only exist if  $4 \mid b$ . For  $k=4$  no restriction is obtained.*

**Proof.** Since  $W$  is a BRD,  $WW^T = rI$ . Suppose the column sum of the  $i$ -th column is  $s_i$  then  $(1, \dots, 1)W = (s_1, \dots, s_b)$  and so

$$(1, \dots, 1)WW^T(1, \dots, 1)^T = \sum_{i=1}^b s_i^2 = (1, \dots, 1)rI_0(1, \dots, 1)^T = vr. \quad (1)$$

If  $k$  is odd the column sums can only be  $\pm 1, \pm 3, \dots, \pm k$  and if  $k$  is even the sums can only be  $0, \pm 2, \pm 4, \dots, \pm k$ . Hence, if there are  $x_i$  columns with column sum  $\pm i$ , we have respectively, using (1),

$$x_1 + 9x_3 + 25x_5 + \dots + k^2x_k = vr, \quad \text{for } k \text{ odd,}$$

$$x_1 + x_3 + x_5 + \dots + x_k = b$$

and

$$4x_2 + 16x_4 + \dots + k^2x_k = vr, \quad \text{for } k \text{ even,}$$

$$x_0 + x_2 + x_4 + \dots + x_k = b$$

giving, since  $vr = bk$  for a BRD

$$\begin{aligned} 8x_3 + 24x_5 + \dots + (k^2-1)x_k &= vr - b = b(k-1) && \text{for } k \text{ odd,} \\ -4x_0 + 12x_4 + \dots + (k^2-4)x_k &= b(k-4) && \text{for } k \text{ even.} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Hence for  $k=3$  we have  $8x_3 = 2b$  or  $4 \mid b$  and for  $k=4$  we have  $x_0 = 3x_4$  as required.

**2. Some replication theorems**

We first recall (see Wilson (1974)) that for every order  $n \geq 3$  except 6 there are two mutually orthogonal latin squares and for any  $n = p_1^{f_1} p_2^{f_2} \dots p_k^{f_k}$ , where  $p_i$  are distinct primes, the number of mutually orthogonal latin squares is at least  $\min_i (p_i^{f_i} - 1)$ .

Mutually orthogonal latin squares may be used to form *auxiliary matrices* (for example in Glynn (1978, pp. 168-9), Wallis (1971), Wallis (1973)) in the following fashion: Let  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n$  be  $n$  mutually orthogonal latin squares of order  $t$  on the symbols  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t$ . Define

$$M_0 = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_t \\ x_1 & x_2 & & x_t \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_t \end{pmatrix}^T,$$

so that  $M_0$  is pairwise orthogonal with  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  but  $M_0$  is not itself a Latin square. Now define

$$(M_{ij})_{ab} = \begin{cases} 1 & (M_i)_{bj} = x_a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We first observe that each  $M_{ij}$  is a permutation matrix since for fixed  $ij$ ,  $x_a$  occurs once in each row and column of  $M_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , and  $M_{0j} = I$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq t$ . For fixed  $ab$ ,

$$\sum_{j=1}^t (M_{ij})_{ab} = \text{number of times the element } x_a \text{ occurs in row } b \text{ of } M_i \\ = 1.$$

So

$$\sum_{j=1}^t M_{aj} = J, \quad 1 \leq a \leq n. \tag{3}$$

Since each  $M_{ij}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq t$ , is a permutation matrix,

$$\sum_{j=1}^t M_{aj} M_{aj}^T = tI, \quad 0 \leq a \leq t. \tag{4}$$

Now consider for fixed  $cd$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=1}^t \sum_{i=1}^t (M_{cj})_{ai} (M_{dj})_{bi} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{j=1}^t (M_{cj})_{ai} (M_{dj})_{bi} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^t (\text{number of times } \{ \text{the element } x_a \text{ occurs in row } i \text{ of } \\ & \quad M_c \} \text{ and } \{ \text{the element } x_b \text{ occurs in row } i \text{ of } M_d \}) \\ &= 1 \quad (\text{since } M_c \text{ and } M_d \text{ are mutually orthogonal}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^t M_{aj} M_{bj}^T = J, \quad a \neq b, \quad 0 \leq a, b \leq t. \quad (5)$$

Matrices which satisfy (3), (4), (5), are auxiliary matrices.

**Example 1.** Let

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ c & d & a & b \\ d & c & b & a \\ b & a & d & c \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_3 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ d & c & b & a \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & a & b \end{pmatrix}$$

be three mutually orthogonal latin squares of order 4 on the symbols  $x_1 = a$ ,  $x_2 = b$ ,  $x_3 = c$ ,  $x_4 = d$ . Define  $M_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , by

$$(M_{ij})_{ab} = \begin{cases} 1 & (M_i)_{bj} = x_a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

So  $M_{ij}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq 3$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 4$  can be written

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{array} \end{array}$$

**Theorem 2.** Suppose there are Bhaskar Rao designs with parameters  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; \lambda)$  and  $\text{BRD}(u, a, s, k; \lambda)$ . Further suppose there are  $k-1$  mutually orthogonal latin squares of order  $u$  then there is a Bhaskar Rao design with parameters  $\text{BRD}(uv, bu^2 + au, ur + s, k; \lambda)$ .

**Proof.** Form the auxiliary matrices  $M_{ij}$ ,  $i=1, \dots, k-1$ ,  $j=1, \dots, u$ , from the mutually orthogonal latin squares. Write

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} I & I & \cdots & I \\ M_{11} & M_{12} & \cdots & M_{1u} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ M_{k-1,1} & M_{k-1,2} & \cdots & M_{k-1,u} \end{pmatrix}$$

Write  $A$  for the  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; \lambda)$  and  $B$  for the  $\text{BRD}(u, a, s, k; \lambda)$ . We now form  $D_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, u$ , by replacing the first non-zero element in each column of  $A$  by  $\pm$  the first element ( $I$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C$ , the second non-zero element in each column of  $A$  by  $\pm$  the second element ( $M_{1i}$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C$ , ..., the  $k$ -th non-zero element in each column of  $A$  by  $\pm$  the  $k$ -th element ( $M_{k-1,i}$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C \pm$  in each case according as the element replaced is  $\pm 1$ . We now claim the matrix

$$E = \underbrace{[B \oplus B \oplus \dots \oplus B]}_{v \text{ copies}} : D_1 : D_2 : \dots : D_u$$

is a  $\text{BRD}(uv, bu^2 + av, ur + s, k; \lambda)$ .

It is easy to check the first four parameters for  $E$  are correct. Also, replacing all  $-1$  in  $B$  by  $1$ , it is easy to check that  $\lambda$  is the inner product. It only remains to show that in  $E$  the inner product of each pair of rows is zero in the  $F = [D_1 : D_2 : \dots : D_u]$  part of  $E$ . We see that column  $k$  and rows  $g$  and  $h$  of  $D_i$  will contribute, when taken over  $i = 1, \dots, u$ , exactly  $J$  or  $-J$  according as the contribution from  $A$  is  $+1$  or  $-1$ . Hence, since the rows of  $A$  are orthogonal, the rows of  $F$  will be orthogonal and we have the result.

**Example 2.** We use the  $\text{BRD}(4, 3, 2)$  for both designs,  $A$  and  $B$  of the theorem to from a  $\text{BRD}(16, 3, 2)$ . Hence

$$A = B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

With  $M_{1i}, M_{2i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  as in Example 1,

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} I & I & I & I \\ M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} & M_{14} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} & M_{24} \end{pmatrix}$$

and hence

$$D_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I & I & I \\ I & 0 & M_{1i} & -M_{1i} \\ M_{1i} & -M_{1i} & 0 & M_{2i} \\ M_{2i} & M_{2i} & -M_{2i} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So

$$[A \oplus A \oplus A \oplus A : D_1 : D_2 : D_3 : D_4]$$

is the required matrix.

We now give a number of important construction results:

**Theorem 3.** Suppose there exists a BRD( $v, b, r, k; \lambda$ ),  $B$ , and a BRD( $u, a, s, k; \lambda$ ),  $A$ . Further suppose there exist  $\geq k - 1$  mutually orthogonal latin squares of order  $u - 1$ . Then there exists a BRD( $v(u - 1) + 1, b(u - 1)^2 + av, vs, k; \lambda$ ).

**Proof.** Write

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ E \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $x$  is the first row of  $A$ . Form the auxiliary matrices  $M_{ij}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, u - 1$ , of size  $u - 1$  from the mutually orthogonal latin squares. Write

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} I & I & \cdots & I \\ M_{11} & M_{12} & \cdots & M_{1,u-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ M_{k-1,1} & M_{k-1,2} & \cdots & M_{k-1,u-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We now form  $D_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, u - 1$ , by replacing the first non-zero element in each column of  $B$  by  $\pm$  the first element ( $I$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C$ , the second non-zero element in each column of  $B$  by  $\pm$  the second element ( $M_{1j}$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C$ , ..., the  $k$ -th non-zero element in each column of  $B$  by  $\pm$  the  $k$ -th element ( $M_{k-1,i}$ ) in the  $i$ -th column of  $C$ ,  $\pm$  in each case according as the element replaced as  $\pm 1$ .

We now claim

$$\left( \underbrace{\begin{matrix} x & x & \cdots & x \\ E \oplus E \oplus \cdots \oplus E \end{matrix}}_{v \text{ copies}} \mid \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ D_1 & D_2 & \cdots & D_{u-1} \end{matrix} \right)$$

is a BRD( $v(u - 1) + 1, b(u - 1)^2 + av, vs, k, \lambda$ ).

**Example 3.** We use the BRD(4, 3, 2),

$$A = B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for both designs of the theorem to form a BRD(13, 3, 2). Suitable  $M_{ij}$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2, 3$ , are

$$M_{11} = M_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad M_{12} = M_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$M_{13} = M_{22} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} I & I & I \\ M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence

$$D_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I & I & I \\ I & 0 & M_{11} & -M_{11} \\ M_{11} & -M_{11} & 0 & M_{21} \\ M_{21} & M_{21} & -M_{21} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$D_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I & I & I \\ I & 0 & M_{12} & -M_{12} \\ M_{12} & -M_{12} & 0 & M_{22} \\ M_{22} & M_{22} & -M_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$D_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I & I & I \\ I & 0 & M_{13} & -M_{13} \\ M_{13} & -M_{13} & 0 & M_{23} \\ M_{23} & M_{23} & -M_{23} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So

$$\left( \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc|cccc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & - & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & 0 & 1 & - & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & - & 0 & 1 & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & 1 & - & 0 & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & 1 & 0 & 1 & - & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & 1 & - & 0 & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & 1 & 1 & - & 0 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & 1 & 0 & 1 & - & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & 1 & - & 0 & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & 1 & 1 & - & 0 & & & & & \end{array} \right) \begin{matrix} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ D_1 & D_2 & D_3 \end{matrix},$$

where

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & - \\ 1 & - & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & - & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

is the required matrix.

**Theorem 4.** *Suppose we have a BIBD(v, b, r, k, λ) and a BRD(k, a, s, j; μ). Then there exists a BRD(v, ab, rs, j; λμ).*

**Proof.** Let B be the BIBD and W the BRD. Replace the j-th non-zero element of each column of B by the j-th row of W to obtain the result.

**Corollary 5.** *Suppose  $v \equiv 1$  or  $4 \pmod{12}$  then there exists a  $\text{BRD}(v, 3, 2)$ . Suppose  $v \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  then there exists a  $\text{BRD}(v, 3, 4)$ .*

**Proof.** In the theorem we let the BRD be the  $\text{BRD}(4, 3, 2)$ . Now by the theorems of Hanani (see Hall (1967)) a  $\text{BIBD}(v, v(v-1)/12, (v-1)/3, 4, 1)$  exists whenever  $v \equiv 1$  or  $4 \pmod{12}$  and a  $\text{BIBD}(v, v(v-1)/6, 2(v-1)/3, 4, 2)$  exists whenever  $v \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . The results now follow by using the theorem.

**Theorem 6.** *Suppose there exists a  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; 4t)$ ,  $4t$  is the order of an Hadamard matrix and there exist  $k-1$  mutually orthogonal latin squares of order  $k$ . Then there exists a  $\text{BRD}(kv, 4tv + k^2b, kr + 4t, k; 4t)$ .*

**Proof.** We form auxiliary matrices of order  $k, M_{ij}$ , and the matrices

$$D_1, D_2, \dots, D_k$$

as in the proofs of earlier theorems. Let  $E$  be the  $k \times 4t$  matrix obtained from the first  $k$  rows of an Hadamard matrix. Then  $[E \oplus E \oplus \dots \oplus E_{v \text{ copies}} \mid D_1 D_2 \dots D_k]$  is the required matrix.

**Corollary 7.** *Suppose there exists a  $\text{BRD}(v, b, r, k; 4)$  then there exists a  $\text{BRD}(kv, 4v + k^2b, kr + 4, k; 4)$  whenever  $k$  is a prime power.*

A generalized Hadamard matrix  $H = \text{GH}(g, G)$  is a matrix of order  $g$  with elements from an abelian group  $G$  with the property that if  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_g)$  and  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_g)$  are any two distinct rows of  $H$  then  $\bigcup_{i=1}^g a_i b_i^{-1} = \lambda G$ , that is the totality of elements  $a_i b_i^{-1}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, g$ , is  $\lambda$  copies of the group  $G$ . Such matrices have been studied by a number of authors, e.g. Butson (1962), Drake (1979), Seberry (1980), Street (1979).

The next theorem was discovered after conversations with Mr. Dinesh G. Sarvate which led to a generalization of a previous result.

**Theorem 8.** *Suppose  $v \equiv 1$  or  $3 \pmod{6}$ . Suppose there exist three rows of a  $\text{GH}(2r, F \times Z_2) = G$ ,  $|F| = r$ . Further suppose there exists a  $\text{BRD}(2pr, 3, 2) = B$  where  $p$  is odd. Then there exists a  $\text{BRD}(2prv, 3, 2)$ .*

**Proof.** For  $v \equiv 1$  or  $3 \pmod{6}$ , by Steiner's Theorem there exists a  $\text{BIBD}(v, v(v-1)/6, (v-1)/3, 3, 1) = A$ .

We define  $\mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{n}^{-1}$ ,  $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_s)$ ,  $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_s)$ , by  $\{m_i n_i^{-1} : i = 1, \dots, s\}$ , where the inverse is in the group upon which the elements are defined.

Write

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{c} & -\mathbf{c} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} &= (a_1, \dots, a_r), \\ \mathbf{b} &= (b_1, \dots, b_r), \\ \mathbf{c} &= (c_1, \dots, c_r), \end{aligned}$$



for the first three rows of the  $\text{GH}(2r, F \times Z_2)$  where  $|F|=r$  and  $Z_2 = \{1, -1\}$  the cyclic group of order 2. Then

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^r (a_i \cup b_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^r (-a_i \cup -b_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^r (c_i \cup -c_i) = a \cdot c^{-1} \cup b \cdot -c^{-1} = F \times Z_2.$$

Now let  $w, x, y, z$  be the vectors  $(1, 2, \dots, p), (p+1, p+2, \dots, 2p), (p, p-1, \dots, 2, 1)$ , and  $(2p, 2p-1, \dots, p+1), p$  odd, respectively. Then with the inverse in the additive cyclic group of order  $2p$ , we have

$$w \cdot y^{-1} = x \cdot z^{-1} = \{p+1, p+3, \dots, p-1\} = \text{evens},$$

$$w \cdot z^{-1} = x \cdot y^{-1} = \{1, 2, \dots, 2p-1\} = \text{odds}.$$

Hence, writing  $H = \{1, 2, \dots, 2p\}$  we have

$$H = w \cdot y^{-1} \cup x \cdot y^{-1} = w \cdot z^{-1} \cup x \cdot z^{-1}.$$

Define

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} e, \varepsilon & e, \varepsilon & e, \varepsilon & e, \varepsilon \\ a, w & b, w & -a, x & -b, x \\ c, y & -c, z & -c, y & c, z \end{pmatrix} = (m_{ij})$$

where  $e, \varepsilon$  represents  $pr$  copies of the unit element of  $H \times (F \times Z_2)$  and, for example,  $b, x$  is the vector  $(b_1, x), (b_2, x), \dots, (b_r, x)$  or  $(b_1, p+1), (b_1, p+2), \dots, (b_1, 2p), (b_2, p+1), \dots, (b_r, 2p)$ , that is  $pr$  elements of the group  $H \times (F \times Z_2)$ . We observe that if  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_{4pr})$  and  $q = (q_1, \dots, q_{4pr})$  are two distinct rows of  $M$  then  $p \cdot q^{-1} = H \times (F \times Z_2)$ .

We now form  $N$  from  $M$  by ensuring the elements of  $Z_2$  in  $M$  are written as  $\pm 1$ , so that the inner product  $p^* \cdot q^{*-1}$  of two distinct rows of  $N$  is 0.

We form a new matrices  $C_1, \dots, C_{4pr}$  from  $A$  by replacing the  $j$ -th non-zero element in each column of  $A$  by  $m_{ij}$  to obtain  $C_i$ . We now replace each element of  $C_1, \dots, C_{4pr}$  by its  $2pr \times 2pr$  matrix representation to form  $(0, 1, -1)$  matrices  $D_1, \dots, D_{4pr}$ .

Then with  $B = \text{BRD}(2pr, 3, 2)$

$$\underbrace{(B \oplus B \oplus \dots \oplus B \oplus B)}_{u \text{ copies}} \mid D_1 \ \dots \ D_{4pr}$$

is the required matrix.

**Example 4.** Let  $w = (1, 2, 3), x = (4, 5, 6), y = (3, 2, 1), z = (6, 5, 4)$ . So  $w \cdot y^{-1} = x \cdot z^{-1} = \{4, 6, 2\}$  and  $w \cdot z^{-1} = x \cdot y^{-1} = \{1, 3, 5\}$ . Now

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} e & e & e & e \\ e & a & b & ab \\ e & b & ab & a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e & e & e & e \\ e & -e & b & -b \\ e & b & -b & -e \end{pmatrix}$$

are the first three rows of  $\text{GH}(4, Z_2 \times Z_2), r=2$ . We now define the matrix  $M$  of

size  $3 \times 4pr$  ( $3 \times 24$  here) by,  $M = [E \ F] = (m_{ij})$ ,

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 \\ e,1 & e,2 & e,3 & a,1 & a,2 & a,3 & b,1 & b,2 & b,3 & ab,1 & ab,2 & ab,3 & \\ e,3 & e,2 & e,1 & b,3 & b,2 & b,1 & ab,6 & ab,5 & ab,4 & a,6 & a,5 & a,4 & \end{pmatrix},$$

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 & e,1 \\ e,4 & e,5 & e,6 & a,4 & a,5 & a,6 & b,4 & b,5 & b,6 & ab,4 & ab,5 & ab,6 & \\ ab,3 & ab,2 & ab,1 & a,3 & a,2 & a,1 & e,6 & e,5 & e,4 & b,6 & b,5 & b,4 & \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now the  $j$ -th non-zero element of  $A$  is replaced by  $m_{ij}$  to form  $C_i$ .

We replace the elements of  $C_i$  by their matrix representations:

$$1 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = T, \quad i \rightarrow T^i,$$

$$e \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad b \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a \rightarrow -\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad ab \rightarrow -\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

so

$$ab, 4 \rightarrow -\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \times T^4, \quad \text{etc.},$$

giving matrices  $D_1, \dots, D_{24}$  with  $2prv = 12v$  rows.

Now, with  $B = \text{BRD}(12, 3, 2)$ ,

$$[I_v \times B \mid D_1 \ \dots \ D_{24}]$$

is the required matrix.

**Corollary 9.** Suppose  $v \equiv 1$  or  $3 \pmod{6}$ . There exist three rows of a  $\text{GH}(2r, F \times Z_2)$  for  $r = 2^t, 6, 10$ . There exist  $\text{BRD}(2pr, 3, 2)$  for  $2pr = 4, 16, 12, 24$  (Singh (1982)). Hence there exist

$$\text{BRD}(4v, 3, 2), \quad \text{BRD}(12v, 3, 2), \quad \text{BRD}(24v, 3, 2), \quad \text{BRD}(16v, 3, 2),$$

thus we have  $\text{BRD}(u, 3, 2)$  for  $u \equiv 4$  or  $12 \pmod{24}$ ,  $16$  or  $48 \pmod{96}$ ,  $12$  or  $36 \pmod{72}$ ,  $24$  or  $72 \pmod{144}$ .

**Corollary 10.** There exist  $\text{BRD}(u, 3, 2)$  for all  $u \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$ .

**Proof.** The existence result follows  $u \equiv 0, 48, 96, 120 \pmod{144}$  from the previous corollary. Also from the previous corollary the existence of  $\text{BRD}(u, 3, 2)$  for  $u \equiv 48 \pmod{96}$  gives the result for  $u \equiv 240 \pmod{288}$ . Now  $\text{BRD}(12, 3, 2)$ ,  $\text{BRD}(24, 3, 2)$  and  $\text{BRD}(12t+4, 3, 2)$  exist for  $t$  integer, so by Theorem 3 we have  $\text{BRD}(144t+48, 3, 2)$  and  $\text{BRD}(288t+96, 3, 2)$  giving the result for  $u \equiv 0, 120 \pmod{144}$ . We now observe that three rows of a  $\text{GH}(2^s, F \times Z_2)$ ,  $s \geq 2$ , can always

be found. Now all  $\text{BRD}(2^s p = 12t + 4, 3, 2)$ ,  $p$  odd exist, that is every  $\text{BRD}(24s + 16, 3, 2)$  exists. We have with  $v = 3$  that every  $\text{BRD}(u, 3, 2)$  with  $u \equiv 48 \pmod{72}$  exists, giving the result for  $u \equiv 120 \pmod{144}$ . The result for  $u \equiv 0 \pmod{144}$  follows by induction after first observing that a  $\text{BRD}(12, 3, 2)$  exists.

**Theorem 11.** *There exist  $\text{BRD}(u, 3, 2)$  for all  $u \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$ .*

We use  $i$  to represent the matrix  $T^i$  of order  $2n + 1$ ,  $n$  odd and  $-$  for the zero matrix. The notation  $a, b$  is used for  $T^a + T^b$ ,  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}$  for  $-T^a + T^b$  and  $a, \bar{b}$  for  $T^a - T^b$ .

Let

$$C = [X_1 \ X_2 \ Y_1 \ Y_2 \ Z_1 \ Z_2]$$

where

$$X_1 = \left( \begin{array}{cc|cccc} 0 & 0 & \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & 3, 2n-2 & 4, 2n-3 & \dots & n, n+1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ n & n+2 & - & - & - & - & \dots & - \end{array} \right),$$

$$X_2 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & \bar{3}, \bar{2n-2} & \bar{4}, \bar{2n-3} & \dots & \bar{n}, \bar{n+1} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ - & - & - & - & \dots & - \end{array} \right)$$

when  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and

$$X_1 = \left( \begin{array}{cc|cccc} 0 & 0 & \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & 3, 2n-2 & 4, 2n-3 & \dots & \bar{n}, \bar{n+1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ n & n+2 & - & - & - & - & \dots & - \end{array} \right),$$

$$X_2 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & \bar{3}, \bar{2n-2} & \bar{4}, \bar{2n-3} & \dots & \bar{n}, \bar{n+1} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ - & - & - & - & \dots & - \end{array} \right)$$

when  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  (note the signs occur in pairs),

$$Y_1 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} - & - & - & \dots & - \\ \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & 3, 2n-2 & 4, 2n-3 & \dots & n, n+1 \\ n & n & n & n & \dots & n \end{array} \right),$$

$$Y_2 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} - & - & - & \dots & - \\ \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & \bar{3}, \bar{2n-2} & \bar{4}, \bar{2n-3} & \dots & \bar{n}, \bar{n+1} \\ n+1 & n+1 & n+1 & n+1 & \dots & n+1 \end{array} \right),$$

when  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and

$$Y_1 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} - & - & - & \dots & - \\ \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & 3, 2n-2 & 4, 2n-3 & \dots & n, n+1 \\ n & n & n & n & \dots & n \end{array} \right),$$

$$Y_2 = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} - & - & - & \dots & - \\ \bar{1}, \bar{2n} & \bar{2}, \bar{2n-1} & \bar{3}, \bar{2n-2} & \bar{4}, \bar{2n-3} & \dots & \bar{n}, \bar{n+1} \\ n & n & n & n & \dots & n \end{array} \right)$$

when  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  (again the signs occur in pairs).

We use the following notation to describe the vectors we use:

$$-w_i = (\overline{i+1, 2n-i} \quad \overline{i+2, 2n-1-i} \quad \overline{i+3, 2n-2-i} \quad \overline{i+4, 2n-3-i}),$$

so

$$w_i = (i+1, 2n+1-i \quad i+2, 2n-1-i \quad i+3, 2n-2-i \quad i+4, 2n-3-i),$$

$$-u_i = (\overline{i, 2n-i+1} \quad \overline{i+1, 2n-i} \quad \overline{i+2, 2n-1-i} \quad \overline{i+3, 2n-2-i}),$$

$$-v_i = (\overline{i, 2n-i+1} \quad \overline{i+1, 2n-i} \quad \overline{i+2, 2n-1-i} \quad \overline{i+3, 2n-2-i}),$$

$$-t_i = (\overline{i, 2n-i+1} \quad \overline{i+1, 2n-i} \quad \overline{i+2, 2n-1-i} \quad \overline{i+3, 2n-2-i}).$$

The last row of  $Z = Z_1 Z_2$  when  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  follows the pattern

$$Z_1: [1, 2n \quad -w_1 \quad w_5 \quad -w_9 \cdots n-1, n+2 \quad n, n+1], \quad n \equiv 7 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_1: [1, 2n \quad -w_1 \quad w_5 \quad -w_9 \cdots \overline{n-1, n+2} \quad n, n+1], \quad n \equiv 3 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_2: [1, \overline{2n} \quad 2, \overline{2n-1} \quad 3, \overline{2n-2} \quad -t_4 \quad t_8 \quad -t_{12} \cdots -t_{n-3}], \quad n \equiv 7 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_2: [1, \overline{2n} \quad 2, \overline{2n-1} \quad 3, \overline{2n-2} \quad -t_4 \quad t_8 \quad -t_{12} \cdots t_{n-3}], \quad n \equiv 3 \pmod{8},$$

where there are basic repetitions four at a time. The last row of  $Z = Z_1 Z_2$  when  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  follows the pattern

$$Z_1: [-u_1 \quad u_5 \quad -u_9 \cdots \overline{n, n+1}], \quad n \equiv 1 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_1: [-u_1 \quad u_5 \quad -u_9 \cdots n, n+1], \quad n \equiv 5 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_2: [-v_1 \quad v_5 \quad -v_9 \cdots \overline{n, n+1}], \quad n \equiv 1 \pmod{8},$$

$$Z_2: [-v_1 \quad v_5 \quad -v_9 \cdots n, n+1], \quad n \equiv 5 \pmod{8}.$$

where there are basic repetitions four at a time. Now

$$Z_1 = \begin{pmatrix} n+1 & n+1 & \cdots & n+1 \\ - & - & \cdots & - \\ \text{last row of } Z_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} n-1 & n-1 & \cdots & n-1 \\ - & - & \cdots & - \\ \text{last row of } Z_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is now possible to check that  $C$  is a BRD(3(2n+1), 3, 2) for  $n$  odd. That is we have constructed BRD( $u, 3, 2$ ) for  $u \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$ .

### 3. General results on BRD

**Theorem 12.** *The condition  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$  is necessary and sufficient for the existence of a BRD( $v, 3, 2$ ) with one association class.*

**Proof.** The necessary conditions for the existence of a BIBD( $v, v(v-1)/3, v-1, 3, 2$ ) require that  $v(v-1)/3$  is an integer, and that the number of blocks for a BRD is divisible by 4 gives us  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$  is a necessary condition.

Corollary 5 gives the existence result for  $v \equiv 1$  or 4 (mod 12), Corollary 10 gives

the result for  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$  and Theorem 11 gives the result for  $v \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$ .

**Theorem 13.** *The condition  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  is necessary and sufficient for the existence of a BRD( $v, 3, 4$ ) with one association class.*

**Proof.** The necessary conditions for the existence of a BIBD require that  $2v(v-1)/3$  must be an integer. Hence  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  is a necessary condition. Now the number of blocks must be divisible by 4 for a BRD but this is clearly satisfied if  $2v(v-1)/3$  is integral.

From Corollary 5 we have that BRD( $v, 3, 4$ ) exist whenever  $v \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

A result of Street and Rodger (1980) shows that a BRD( $v, 3, 4$ ) can always be obtained from a BIBD( $v, v(v-1)/6, (v-1)/2, 3, 1$ ). Hence we have the result for  $v \equiv 1$  or  $3 \pmod{6}$ .

We use Corollary 7 with  $k=3$  to see that since every design with  $6t+4$  treatments exists then every design with  $3(6t+4)$  treatments exists. That is we have the result for  $v \equiv 12$  or  $30 \pmod{36}$ . The fact that every BRD with  $6t+1, 6t+3$  or  $6t+4$  treatments exists can be used in Theorem 2 with the BRD( $6, 20, 10, 3, 4$ ) of Vyas (1982) to obtain the result for  $v \equiv 6, 18$  or  $24 \pmod{36}$ . Finally we see that if every design with  $6t_0$  treatments exists for  $t_0 < t$  then Theorem 2 can be used with BRD with  $v=6$  to obtain the result for  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{36}$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 14.** *The condition  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  is necessary and sufficient for the existence of a BRD( $v, 3, 6$ ) with one association class.*

**Proof.** The condition that the number of blocks is divisible by 4 gives the necessary condition that  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . Now by a Theorem of Hanani all BIBD exist with  $k=4$ , and in particular all BIBD( $v, v(v-1)/4, v-1, 4, 3$ ) exist whenever  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . We use these BIBDs with the BRD( $4, 3, 2$ ) in Theorem 4 to obtain the result.

Together these results give us:

**Theorem 15.** *The conditions  $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ,  $\lambda v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{24}$  are necessary and sufficient for the existence of a BRD( $v, 3, \lambda$ ) with one association class.*

**Proof.** The only case not considered is for  $12 \nmid \lambda$ . Now there exist BIBD( $v, v(v-1)/2, 2(v-1), 4, 6$ ) for  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ . Theorem 4 and the BRD( $4, 3, 2$ ) can now be used to get BRD( $v, 3, 12$ ).

#### 4. Construction of PBIBD(2)

We now use the following Theorem given in Street and Rodger (1980) to construct PBIBD(2).

**Theorem 16.** Suppose there exists a BRD( $v, k, \lambda$ ). Then there exists a regular group divisible design with two association classes and parameters  $(2v, 2b, r, k, \lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 = \lambda/2, m = v, n = 2)$ .

Hence we have part of a theorem of Hanani on PBIBD by a different method:

**Theorem 17.** Suppose  $\lambda v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$ . Then there exist regular group divisible designs with two association classes and parameters

$$v^* = 2v, \quad b^* = \frac{2\lambda v(v-1)}{3}, \quad r^* = \lambda(v-1),$$

$$k^* = 3, \quad \lambda_1^* = 0, \quad \lambda_2^* = \lambda, \quad m^* = v, \quad n^* = 2.$$

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