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# Uniformly resolvable decompositions of $K_v$ in 1-factors and 4-stars

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## Abstract

If  $X$  is a connected graph, then an  $X$ -factor of a larger graph is a spanning subgraph in which all of its components are isomorphic to  $X$ . A *uniformly resolvable  $\{X, Y\}$ -decomposition* of the complete graph  $K_v$  is an edge decomposition of  $K_v$  into exactly  $r$   $X$ -factors and  $s$   $Y$ -factors. In this article we determine necessary and sufficient conditions for when the complete graph  $K_v$  has a uniformly resolvable decompositions into 1-factors and  $K_{1,4}$ -factors.

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## 1 Introduction and definitions

For any graph  $G$ , let  $V(G)$  and  $E(G)$  be the vertex-set and the edge-set of  $G$ , respectively. Throughout the paper  $K_v$  will denote the complete graph on  $v$  vertices, while  $K_v \setminus K_h$  will denote the graph with  $V(K_v)$  as vertex-set and  $E(K_v) \setminus E(K_h)$  as edge-set (this graph is sometimes referred to as a complete graph of order  $v$  with a *hole* of size  $h$ ).

Given a set  $\mathcal{H}$  of pairwise non-isomorphic graphs, an  $\mathcal{H}$ -*decomposition* (or  $\mathcal{H}$ -*design*) of a graph  $G$  is a decomposition of the edge-set of  $G$  into subgraphs (called *blocks*) isomorphic to some element of  $\mathcal{H}$ . An  $\mathcal{H}$ -*factor* of  $G$  is a spanning subgraph of  $G$  whose components are isomorphic to a members of  $\mathcal{H}$ . If  $X \in \mathcal{H}$ , then an  $X$ -*factor* is a spanning subgraph whose components are isomorphic to  $X$ . An  $\mathcal{H}$ -decomposition of  $G$  is *resolvable* if its blocks can be partitioned into  $\mathcal{H}$ -factors and is called an  $\mathcal{H}$ -*factorization* of  $G$ . An  $\mathcal{H}$ -factorization  $\mathcal{F}$  of  $G$  is called *uniform* if each factor of  $\mathcal{F}$  is an  $X$ -factor for some graph  $X \in \mathcal{H}$ . A  $K_2$ -factorization of  $G$  is known as a 1-*factorization* and its factors are called 1-*factors*; it is well known that a 1-factorization of  $K_v$  exists if and only if  $v$  is even ([18]).

An  $\mathcal{H}$ -isofactorization of  $G$  is an  $\mathcal{H}$ -factorization with isomorphic factors. If  $\mathcal{H}$  is the set of all possible cycles of  $K_v$ , then determining the existence of possible  $\mathcal{H}$ -isofactorizations of  $K_v$ ,  $v$  odd is known as the *Oberwolfach Problem*. It was first posed in 1967 by Gerhard Ringel and asks whether it is possible to seat an odd number  $v$  of mathematicians at  $n$  round tables in  $(v-1)/2$  meals so that each mathematician sits next to everyone else exactly once. If the  $n$  round tables are of sizes  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  (with  $p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n = v$ ), the Oberwolfach Problem asks for an isofactorization of  $K_v$  with factors isomorphic to the 2-factor with components isomorphic to cycles of length  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ . The uniform Oberwolfach problem (all cycles of the 2-factor have the same size) has been completely solved by Alspach and Häggkvist [4] and Alspach, Schellenberg, Stinson and Wagner [5].

Additional existence problems for  $\mathcal{H}$ -factorizations of  $K_v$  have been studied and many results have been obtained, especially on uniformly resolvable  $\mathcal{H}$ -decompositions: when  $\mathcal{H}$  is a set of two complete graphs of order at most five in [8, 21, 22, 24]; when  $\mathcal{H}$  is a set of two or three paths on two, three or four vertices in [11, 12, 17]; for  $\mathcal{H} = \{P_3, K_3 + e\}$  in [10]; for  $\mathcal{H} = \{K_3, K_{1,3}\}$  in [14]; for  $\mathcal{H} = \{C_4, P_3\}$  in [19]; for  $\mathcal{H} = \{K_3, P_3\}$  in [20]. And most famous is the variation of the Oberwolfach problem known as the Hamilton-Waterloo problem. In this problem the meals for the dinning mathematicians take place at two different venues. Hence a decomposition of  $K_v$  is sought where the factors can be either one of two types. In particular the uniform case asks for a decomposition of  $K_v$  into  $C_p$ -factors and  $C_q$ -factors. Thus the round tables in one venue sit  $p$  mathematicians whereas the tables in the other venue each sit  $q$ . Of course in this case  $p$  and  $q$  must divide  $v$ ,  $v$  must be odd and  $\mathcal{H} = \{C_p, C_q\}$ .

A uniformly resolvable  $\{X, Y\}$ -decomposition of  $K_v$  into exactly  $r$   $X$ -factors and  $s$   $Y$ -factors, is abbreviated  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ). The uniform case of the Hamilton-Waterloo problem is the existence problem for  $(C_p, C_q)$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ).

In this paper, we focus on the case  $\mathcal{H} = \{K_2, K_{1,n}\}$ . The resulting uniformly resolvable problem, affectionally known as the stars and stripes problem, can be seen as the attendance at a conference of  $v$  participants that has  $v/(n+1)$  parallel sessions and in which during the breaks the participants pair up for one on one discussions. The parallel sessions are  $K_{1,n}$ -factors and are also known as star-factors: the one on one discussions are  $K_2$ -factors and are the stripes.

The existence of a  $(K_2, K_{1,n})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) was studied and completely solved for  $n = 3$  in [6] and [13]. Here we concentrate on the case  $n = 4$  and, because the results for the extremal cases  $s = 0$  and  $r = 0$  are known, i.e.:

- a  $(K_2, K_{1,n})$ -URD( $v; r, 0$ ) exists if and only if  $v$  is even;
- if  $n$  is even, a  $(K_2, K_{1,n})$ -URD( $v; 0, s$ ) exists is and only  $v \equiv 1 \pmod{2n}$  and  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{n+1}$  ([25]);

we deal with  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) where  $r, s > 0$  and so  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$  and  $r = v - 1 - \frac{8s}{5}$ .

For  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ , define  $J(v)$  according to the following table:

$v$	$J(v)$
0 (mod 40)	$\{(v - 1 - 8x, 5x), x = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{v-8}{8}\}$
10 (mod 40)	$\{(v - 1 - 8x, 5x), x = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{v-2}{8}\}$
20 (mod 40)	$\{(v - 1 - 8x, 5x), x = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{v-4}{8}\}$
30 (mod 40)	$\{(v - 1 - 8x, 5x), x = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{v-6}{8}\}$

Table 1: The set  $J(v)$

In this paper we completely solve the existence problem of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) by proving the following result.

**Main Theorem.** *For any  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ , there exists a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) if and only if  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

## 2 Necessary conditions

In this section we will give necessary conditions for the existence of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ).

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ . If there exists a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ), then  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that there exists a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ). By resolvability, it follows that

$$\frac{rv}{2} + \frac{4sv}{5} = \frac{v(v-1)}{2}$$

and hence

$$5r + 8s = 5(v - 1). \tag{1}$$

Denote by  $R$  the set of  $r$   $K_2$ -factors and by  $S$  the set of  $s$   $K_{1,4}$ -factors. Since the factors of  $R$  are regular of degree 1, every vertex of  $K_v$  is incident to  $r$  edges in  $R$  and  $(v - 1) - r$  edges in  $S$ . Assume that the any fixed vertex appears in  $x$   $K_{1,4}$ -factors with degree 4 and in  $y$   $K_{1,4}$ -factors with degree 1. Since

$$x + y = s \quad \text{and} \quad 4x + y = v - 1 - r,$$

the equality (1) gives

$$5(v - 1 - 4x - y) + 8(x + y) = 5(v - 1),$$

which implies  $y = 4x$  and so  $s = 5x$ . Further, replacing  $s = 5x$  in Equation (1) provides  $r = v - 1 - 8x$ , where  $x \leq \frac{v-1}{8}$  (because  $r$  is a non-negative integer).  $\square$

### 3 General constructions and related structures

An  $\mathcal{H}$ -decomposition of  $K_{u(g)}$ , the complete multi-partite graph with  $u$  parts of size  $g$ , is known as a *group divisible decomposition* ( $\mathcal{H}$ -GDD, in short) of type  $g^u$ ; the parts of size  $g$  are called the *groups*. (If  $\mathcal{H}$  consists of complete subgraphs, then a GDD is called a *group divisible design*.) When  $\mathcal{H} = \{H\}$  we simply write  $H$ -GDD and when  $H = K_n$  we refer to such a group divisible design as an  $n$ -GDD. We denote a (uniformly) resolvable  $\mathcal{H}$ -GDD by  $\mathcal{H}$ -(U)RGDD. Specifically, a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD with  $r$   $X$ -factors and  $s$   $Y$ -factors is denoted by  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ). It is easy to deduce that the number of  $H$ -factors of a  $H$ -RGDD is  $\frac{g(u-1)|V(H)|}{2|E(H)|}$ .

If the blocks of an  $n$ -GDD of type  $g^u$  can be partitioned into *partial* factors, each of which contains all vertices except those of one group, we refer to such a decomposition as a *n-frame*. It is easy to deduce that the number of partial factors missing a specified group is  $\frac{g}{n-1}$  (see [9]). It is well known that a 2-frame of type  $g^u$  exists if and only if  $u \geq 3$  and  $g(u - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ; and a 3-frame of type  $g^u$  exists if and only if  $u \geq 4$ ,  $g$  is even and  $g(u - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  (see [7]).

An  $\mathcal{H}$ -decomposition of  $K_{v+h} \setminus K_h$  is known as an *incomplete  $\mathcal{H}$ -design of order  $v + h$  with a hole of size  $h$* . We are interested in incomplete resolvable  $\mathcal{H}$ -designs, which will be used in the “Filling” and “Frame”-Constructions of this section. These designs have two types factors: *partial* factors, which cover every vertex except the ones in the hole; and *full* factors, which cover every vertex of  $K_{v+h}$ .

Specifically, a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD( $v + h, h; [r', s'], [r, s]$ ) is a uniformly resolvable  $(X, Y)$ -decomposition of  $K_{v+h} \setminus K_h$  with  $r'$  partial  $X$ -factors and  $s'$  partial  $Y$ -factors which

cover every vertex not in the hole, and  $r$   $X$ -factors and  $s$   $Y$ -factors which cover every point of  $K_{v+h}$ .

Given a graph  $G$  and a positive integer  $t$ , then  $G_{(t)}$  will denote the graph on  $V(G) \times \mathbb{Z}_t$  with edge-set  $\{\{x_i, y_j\} : \{x, y\} \in E(G), i, j \in \mathbb{Z}_t\}$ , where the subscript notation  $a_i$  is used to denote the pair  $(a, i)$ . The graph  $G_{(t)}$  is said to be obtained from  $G$  by expanding each vertex  $t$  times. When  $G = K_n$ , the graph  $G_{(t)}$  is the complete equipartite graph  $K_{\underbrace{t, t, \dots, t}_{n \text{ times}}}$  with  $n$  parts of size  $t$  and will be denoted by

$K_{n(t)}$ ; while  $C_{n(t)}$  will denote the graph  $G_{(t)}$  where  $G$  is an  $n$ -cycle.

**Remark 3.1.** Note that the graph  $G_{(t)}$  admits  $t$  1-factors corresponding to each 1-factor of  $G$ ; for instance, because a  $2m$ -cycle has two 1-factors,  $C_{2m(t)}$  admits  $2t$  1-factors.

For any two pairs of non-negative integers  $(r, s)$  and  $(r', s')$ , define  $(r, s) + (r', s') = (r + r', s + s')$ . If  $X$  and  $X'$  are two sets of pairs of non-negative integers and  $a$  is a positive integer, then  $X + X'$  will denote the set  $\{(r, s) + (r', s') : (r, s) \in X, (r', s') \in X'\}$  and  $a * X$  will denote the set of all pairs of non-negative integers which can be obtained by adding any  $a$  pairs of  $X$  together (repetitions of elements of  $X$  are allowed).

**Construction 3.2.** (GDD-construction) Let  $t$  be a positive integer and  $\mathcal{G}$  be an  $H$ -RGDD of type  $g^u$ , where  $H$  is a graph with  $n \geq 2$  vertices and  $m$  edges. If there exists a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of  $H_{(t)}$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in J$ , then so does a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  of type  $(gt)^u$  for each  $(r, s) \in \alpha * J$ , where  $\alpha = \frac{ng(u-1)}{2m}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, u$ , be the groups and  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_\alpha$  an  $H$ -factorization of  $\mathcal{G}$ , where  $\alpha = \frac{ng(u-1)}{2m}$ . Expand each vertex  $t$  times, and for each block  $B$  of the  $H$ -factor  $F_j$ , for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, \alpha$ , place a copy of a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(r_j, s_j)$  of  $H_{(t)}$  with  $(r_j, s_j) \in J$  on  $V(B) \times \mathbb{Z}_t$ . Thus we obtain a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  of type  $(gt)^u$  with  $r = \sum_{j=1}^\alpha r_j$  and  $s = \sum_{j=1}^\alpha s_j$ , and so  $(r, s) \in \alpha * J$ . □

**Construction 3.3.** (Filling Construction) Suppose there exists a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  of type  $g^u$  for each  $(r, s) \in J$ . If there exists a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(g; r', s')$ , for each  $(r', s') \in J'$ , then so does:

- (i) a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD $(ug, g; [r', s'], [r, s])$  for each  $(r', s') \in J'$  and  $(r, s) \in J$ ;
- (ii) a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(ug; \bar{r}, \bar{s})$ , for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in J' + J$ .

*Proof.* Fix any pairs  $(r, s) \in J$  and  $(r', s') \in J'$ , and start with a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  with  $u$  groups of size  $g$ ,  $G_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, u$ . For every  $i = 2, 3, \dots, u$ , place a copy of a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(g; r', s')$  on  $G_i$  to obtain a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD $(gu, g; [r', s'], [r, s])$  with  $G_1$  as the hole. Finally, on  $G_1$  place a copy of a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(g; r', s')$  to obtain a  $(X, Y)$ -URD $(gu; r' + r, s' + s)$ . □

**Remark 3.4.** Note that the “filling” technique allows us to construct a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $v + h; r' + r, s' + s$ ) whenever a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD( $v + h, h; [r', s'], [r, s]$ ) and a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $h; r', s'$ ) are given.

**Construction 3.5.** (Frame-construction) Let  $v, g, t, h$  and  $u$  be positive integers such that  $v = gtu + h$ . If there exists

- (i) a  $n$ -frame  $\mathcal{F}$  of type  $g^u$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ;
- (ii) a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD( $\bar{r}, \bar{s}$ ) of type  $t^n$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in J$ ;
- (iii) a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD( $gt + h, h; [r', s'], [\bar{r}, \bar{s}]$ ) for each  $(r', s') \in J'$  and  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in \alpha * J$ , where  $\alpha = \frac{g}{n-1}$ ;
- (iv) a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $h; r', s'$ ) for each  $(r', s') \in J'$ ;

then so does a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) for each  $(r, s) \in J' + u\alpha * J$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an  $n$ -frame of type  $g^u$  with groups  $G_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, u$ . Expand each vertex  $t$  times and add a set  $H = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_h\}$ . For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, \alpha = \frac{g}{n-1}$ , let  $F_{ij}$  be the  $j$ -th partial factor which misses the group  $G_i$ . For each block  $B \in F_{ij}$ , on  $B \times \mathbb{Z}_t$  place a copy,  $\mathcal{D}_{ij}(B)$ , of a  $(X, Y)$ -URGDD( $r_{ij}, s_{ij}$ ) of type  $t^n$  with  $(r_{ij}, s_{ij}) \in J$ . For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, u$ , on  $H \cup (G_i \times \mathbb{Z}_t)$  place a copy  $\mathcal{D}_i$  of a  $(X, Y)$ -IURD( $gt + h, h; [r', s'], [r_i, s_i]$ ) with  $(r', s') \in J'$  and  $(r_i, s_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{\alpha} (r_{ij}, s_{ij}) \in \alpha * J$ . For every  $i = 1, 2, \dots, u$ , combine all together the factors of  $\mathcal{D}_{ij}(B), B \in F_{ij}$ , along with the full factors of  $\mathcal{D}_i$  so to obtain  $\bar{r}$   $X$ -factors and  $\bar{s}$   $Y$ -factors, where  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^u (r_i, s_i) \in u\alpha * J$ . Now, fill the hole  $H$  with a copy  $\mathcal{D}$  of a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $h; r', s'$ ) with  $(r', s') \in J'$ . Combine the factors of  $\mathcal{D}$  with the partial factors of  $\mathcal{D}_i$  to obtain further  $r'$   $X$ -factors and  $s'$   $Y$ -factors with  $(r', s') \in J'$ . The result is a  $(X, Y)$ -URD( $v; r, s$ ) where  $(r, s) = (r' + \bar{r}, s' + \bar{s}) \in J' + u\alpha * J$ . □

### 4 Small cases

In what follows, we will denote by  $(a_1; a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5)$  the graph  $K_{1,4}$  on the vertex-set  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5\}$  with edge-set  $\{\{a_1, a_2\}, \{a_1, a_3\}, \{a_1, a_4\}, \{a_1, a_5\}\}$ ; and by  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  the  $n$ -cycle on  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  with edge-set  $\{\{a_1, a_2\}, \{a_2, a_3\}, \dots, \{a_{n-1}, a_n\}, \{a_n, a_1\}\}$ . If the vertices of  $B = (a; b, c, d, e)$  belong to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , then we will say *orbit of B under  $\mathbb{Z}_n$*  the set  $\{(a + i; b + i, c + i, d + i, e + i) : i \in \mathbb{Z}_n\}$ .

For any positive integer  $n$ , let  $I(n)$  be the set of pairs of non-negative integers

$$I(n) = \{(n - 8x, 5x) : x = 0, 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{8} \rfloor\}.$$

By induction it is easy to prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.1.** *If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ , then  $\alpha * I(n) = I(\alpha n)$  for any positive integer  $\alpha$ .*

**Lemma 4.2.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r, s$ ) of  $C_{2m(5)}$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(10)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (10, 0)$  follows by Remark 3.1. For the case  $(r, s) = (2, 5)$ , let  $C_{2m(5)}$  be the graph obtained by starting with the cycle  $C = (0, 1, \dots, 2m - 1)$  on  $\mathbb{Z}_{2m}$  and taking the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors

$$F_j = \{(i_j; (1 + i)_{j+1}, (1 + i)_{j+2}, (1 + i)_{j+3}, (1 + i)_{j+4}) : i \in \mathbb{Z}_{2m}\}, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}_5.$$

The two 1-factors are easily obtainable by decomposing the remaining set of edges, which can be considered as the disjoint union of the five  $2m$ -cycles  $C_j = (0_j, 1_j, \dots, (2m - 1)_j)$ ,  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_5$ . □

**Lemma 4.3.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  of type  $2^5$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(8)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (8, 0)$  corresponds to a 1-factorization of  $K_{5(2)}$ , which is known to exist ([7]). To settle the case  $(r, s) = (0, 5)$ , take the orbit of  $B = (0; 1, 2, 3, 4)$  under  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , which can be decomposed into the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors:

$$F_j = \{B + j + 5i : i = 0, 1\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

The groups are the cosets  $H, H + 1, H + 2, H + 3, H + 4$  of  $H = 5\mathbb{Z}_{10}$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ . □

**Lemma 4.4.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(10; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(10)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (9, 0)$  corresponds to a 1-factorization of the complete  $K_{10}$ , which is known to exist ([7]). For the case  $(r, s) = (1, 5)$ , apply the Filling Construction to a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(0, 5)$  of type  $2^5$ , which is given by Lemma 4.3. □

**Lemma 4.5.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(r, s)$  of type  $10^2$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(10)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the GDD-construction with  $t = 5$  to a trivial  $C_4$ -RGDD of type  $2^2$ , where  $\alpha = 1$ . The input designs are given by Lemma 4.2. □

**Lemma 4.6.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(20; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(20)$ .*

*Proof.* The Filling Construction applied to a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of type  $10^2$  from Lemma 4.5 (with input designs given by Lemma 4.4) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(20; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(10) + I(10) = J(20)$ . □

**Lemma 4.7.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(40; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(40)$ .*

*Proof.* Applying the GDD-construction with  $t = 10$  to a 2-RGDD of type  $2^2$  (where  $\alpha = 2$ ) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of type  $20^2$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in 2 * I(10)$  (the input designs are given by Lemma 4.5). Now filling the groups with designs given by Lemma 4.6 gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(40; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(20) + 2 * I(20) = J(40)$ . □

**Lemma 4.8.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(0, 25)$  of  $C_{m(20)}$  exists for every  $m \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C_m = (1, 2, \dots, m)$ . For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , let  $X^{(i)} = \{i\} \times \mathbb{Z}_{20} = \bigcup_{k=0}^4 X_k^{(i)}$ , where  $X_k^{(i)} = \{i_{4k}, i_{4k+1}, i_{4k+2}, i_{4k+3}\}$ , and for every  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}_5$  let  $R_{rs}^{(i)}$  denote the set of the following four copies of  $K_{1,4}$



$$\begin{aligned} & (i_{4r}; (i + 1)_{4s}, (i + 1)_{4s+1}, (i + 1)_{4s+2}, (i + 1)_{4s+3}), \\ & (i_{4r+1}; (i + 1)_{4s+4}, (i + 1)_{4s+5}, (i + 1)_{4s+6}, (i + 1)_{4s+7}), \\ & (i_{4r+2}; (i + 1)_{4s+8}, (i + 1)_{4s+9}, (i + 1)_{4s+10}, (i + 1)_{4s+11}), \\ & (i_{4r+3}; (i + 1)_{4s+12}, (i + 1)_{4s+13}, (i + 1)_{4s+14}, (i + 1)_{4s+15}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $m + 1 = 1$ . If  $m = 2n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , take the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( R_{01}^{(2i+1)} \cup R_{01}^{(2i+2)} \right), \\ F_2 &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( R_{02}^{(2i+1)} \cup R_{11}^{(2i+2)} \right), \\ F_3 &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( R_{03}^{(2i+1)} \cup R_{21}^{(2i+2)} \right), \\ F_4 &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( R_{04}^{(2i+1)} \cup R_{31}^{(2i+2)} \right), \\ F_5 &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( R_{00}^{(2i+1)} \cup R_{41}^{(2i+2)} \right), \end{aligned}$$

while if  $m = 2n + 1$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , take the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors

$$\begin{aligned} F'_1 &= \left( R_{01}^{(1)} \cup R_{01}^{(2)} \cup R_{01}^{(3)} \right) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left( R_{01}^{(2i)} \cup R_{01}^{(2i+1)} \right) \right], \\ F'_2 &= \left( R_{02}^{(1)} \cup R_{13}^{(2)} \cup R_{21}^{(3)} \right) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left( R_{02}^{(2i)} \cup R_{11}^{(2i+1)} \right) \right], \\ F'_3 &= \left( R_{03}^{(1)} \cup R_{20}^{(2)} \cup R_{41}^{(3)} \right) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left( R_{03}^{(2i)} \cup R_{21}^{(2i+1)} \right) \right], \\ F'_4 &= \left( R_{04}^{(1)} \cup R_{32}^{(2)} \cup R_{11}^{(3)} \right) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left( R_{04}^{(2i)} \cup R_{31}^{(2i+1)} \right) \right], \\ F'_5 &= \left( R_{00}^{(1)} \cup R_{44}^{(2)} \cup R_{31}^{(3)} \right) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i=2}^n \left( R_{00}^{(2i)} \cup R_{41}^{(2i+1)} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

The required 25 star factors are

$$F_{k,j} = (F_k) + j = \{R_{r+j,s+j}^{(i)} : R_{rs}^{(i)} \in F_k, r, s \in \mathbb{Z}_5\}, j \in \mathbb{Z}_5, k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

when  $m = 2n$  and

$$F'_{k,j} = (F'_k) + j = \{R_{r+j,s+j}^{(i)} : R_{rs}^{(i)} \in F'_k, r, s \in \mathbb{Z}_5\}, j \in \mathbb{Z}_5, k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

when  $m = 2n + 1$ . □

**Lemma 4.9.** *A  $C_{2m}$ -decomposition of  $C_{m(2)}$  exists for any  $m \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C_{m(2)}$  be the graph obtained by expanding twice the vertices of the cycle  $(1, 2, \dots, m)$ ,  $m \geq 3$ . If  $m$  is even, take the two  $2m$ -cycles

$$C_1 = (1_0, 2_1, 3_0, 4_1, \dots, m_1, 1_1, 2_0, 3_1, 4_0, \dots, m_0),$$

$$C_2 = (1_0, 2_0, 3_0, 4_0, \dots, m_0, 1_1, 2_1, 3_1, 4_1, \dots, m_1),$$

while if  $m$  is odd, take the following ones:

$$C'_1 = (1_0, 2_1, 3_0, 4_1, \dots, m_0, 1_1, m_1, (m-1)_0, (m-2)_1, (m-3)_0, \dots, 2_0),$$

$$C'_2 = (1_0, m_0, (m-1)_0, (m-2)_0, (m-3)_0, \dots, 2_0, 1_1, 2_1, 3_1, 4_1, \dots, m_1). \quad \square$$

**Lemma 4.10.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r, s$ ) of  $C_{m(20)}$ ,  $m \geq 3$ , exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(40)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (0, 25)$  follows by Lemma 4.8. For any  $(r, s) \in I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ , start from the  $C_{2m}$ -decomposition of  $C_{m(2)}$  of Lemma 4.9, which admits  $\alpha = 4$  1-factors (each  $2m$ -cycle gives two 1-factors). Expand each vertex 10 times. For each edge  $e$  of a given 1-factor, place on  $e \times \mathbb{Z}_{10}$  a copy of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $\bar{r}, \bar{s}$ ) of type  $10^2$  with  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in I(10)$  (given by Lemma 4.5) so to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r, s$ ) of  $C_{m(20)}$  with  $(r, s) \in 4 * I(10) = I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.11.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r, s$ ) of  $C_{m(10)}$ ,  $m \geq 3$ , exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(20)$ .*

*Proof.* Start with a  $C_{2m}$ -decomposition of  $C_{m(2)}$ , which is given by Lemma 4.9 and is trivially resolvable with  $\alpha = 2$  factors (i.e., the two  $2m$ -cycles). Expand each vertex 5 times. For each cycle  $C$ , place on  $V(C) \times \mathbb{Z}_5$  a copy of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $\bar{r}, \bar{s}$ ) of  $C_{2m(5)}$  with  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in I(10)$  given by Lemma 4.2 so to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r, s$ ) of  $C_{m(10)}$  with  $(r, s) \in 2 * I(10) = I(20)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.12.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $40^2$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(40)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the GDD-construction with  $t = 20$  to a trivial  $C_4$ -RGDD of type  $2^2$ , where  $\alpha = 1$ . The input designs are given by Lemma 4.10 for  $m = 4$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.13.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $30; r, s$ ) exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(30)$ .*

*Proof.* The Filling Construction applied to a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -RGDD( $\bar{r}, \bar{s}$ ) of type  $10^3$  with  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in I(20)$  (from Lemma 4.11) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $30; r, s$ ) for each  $(r, s) \in J(10) + I(20) = J(30)$ . The input designs are given by Lemma 4.4.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.14.** *There exists a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $0, 25$ ) of type  $10^5$ .*

*Proof.* The union of the orbits of  $B_i = (0; 1 + 5i, 2 + 5i, 3 + 5i, 4 + 5i)$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ , under  $\mathbb{Z}_{50}$  gives the block set of a GDD of type  $10^5$ , whose groups are the cosets  $H, H + 1, H + 2, H + 3, H + 4$  of  $H = 5\mathbb{Z}_{50}$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{50}$ . For every  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ , the orbit of  $B_i$  can be decomposed into five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors:

$$F_{ij} = \{B_i + j + 5k, k = 0, 1, \dots, 9\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

$\square$

**Lemma 4.15.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^5$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(40)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (0, 25)$  follows by Lemma 4.14. For any  $(r, s) \in I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ , the GDD-Construction applied with  $t = 10$  to a trivial  $C_5$ -RGDD of type  $1^5$  (where  $\alpha = 2$ ) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^5$  for each  $(r, s) \in 2 * I(20) = I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ . The input designs are given by Lemma 4.11.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.16.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD( $50, 10; [r', s'], [r, s]$ ) exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(10)$  and  $(r, s) \in I(40)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Filling Construction to a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^5$  with  $(r, s) \in I(40)$  from by Lemma 4.15 (the input designs are given by Lemma 4.4).  $\square$

Let  $S \subset \mathbb{Z}_n$  be such that if  $s \in S$ , then  $-s \notin S$  and set  $B = \{0, s : s \in S\}$ , then the orbit of  $B$  is the circulant graph with edges  $\{x, y\}$  where either  $x - y$  or  $y - x \in S$ . The edge  $\{x, y\}$  has even order if  $s = y - x$  has even additive order modulo  $n$ . In the next Lemma we use the following famous result of Stern and Lenz.

**Theorem 4.17.** *(Theorem of Stern and Lenz [23]) Every circulant graph containing an edge of even order has a one-factorization.*

**Lemma 4.18.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^9$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in \{(8, 45), (0, 50)\}$*

*Proof.* On  $\mathbb{Z}_{90}$  let:

$$F = \{(89; 0, 1, 18, 19), (52; 53, 54, 71, 72), (2; 40, 67, 87, 85), \\ (3; 41, 68, 88, 86), (4; 65, 73, 77, 81), (5; 66, 74, 78, 82), \\ (6; 46, 48, 50, 61), (7; 47, 49, 51, 62), (8; 38, 42, 59, 83), \\ (9; 39, 43, 60, 84), (10; 32, 34, 36, 63), (11; 33, 35, 37, 64), \\ (12; 20, 69, 24, 79), (13; 21, 70, 25, 80), (14; 28, 30, 55, 57), \\ (15; 29, 31, 56, 58), (16; 44, 22, 26, 75), (17; 45, 23, 27, 76)\}.$$

and  $B = (0; 3, 4, 11, 32)$ . Take the forty-five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors  $F + 2i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 44$ , and partition the orbit of  $B$  under  $\mathbb{Z}_{90}$  into the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors:

$$F_j = \{B + j + 5k, k = 0, 1, \dots, 17\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

The resulting design is a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $0, 50$ ) of type  $10^9$ , whose groups are the cosets of  $H = 9\mathbb{Z}_{90}$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{90}$ , i.e.,  $H + h$ , for  $h = 0, 1, \dots, 8$ .

For the case  $(r, s) = (8, 45)$ , remove the  $K_{1,4}$ -factors obtained from the orbit of  $B$  and decompose the graph whose edges cover the differences of  $B$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.19.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^9$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in I(80)$ .*

*Proof.* The cases  $(r, s) = (0, 50), (8, 45)$  follow by Lemma 4.18. To settle the remaining cases, apply the GDD-construction with  $t = 10$  to a  $C_9$ -RGDD of type  $1^9$  (where  $\alpha = 4$ ) to get a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^9$  for each  $(r, s) \in 4 * I(20) = I(80) \setminus \{(0, 50), (8, 45)\}$ . The input designs are given by Lemma 4.11.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.20.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD(90, 10;  $[r', s'], [r, s]$ ) exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(10)$  and  $(r, s) \in I(80)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Filling Construction to a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD( $r, s$ ) of type  $10^9$  with  $(r, s) \in I(80)$  from by Lemma 4.19 (the input designs are given by Lemma 4.4).  $\square$

**Lemma 4.21.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD(70, 30;  $[r', s'], [0, 25]$ ) exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(30)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $V = \mathbb{Z}_{40} \cup \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{30}\}$  be the vertex set, where  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{30}\}$  is the hole. Consider the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $V$ :

$$F_1 = \{(a_1; 16, 17, 18, 19), (a_2; 20, 21, 22, 23), (a_3; 24, 25, 26, 27), \\ (a_4; 28, 29, 30, 31), (a_5; 32, 33, 34, 35), (a_6; 36, 37, 38, 39), \\ (0; 8, a_{14}, a_{16}, a_{18}), (1; 9, a_{26}, a_{28}, a_{30}), (2; 10, a_{20}, a_{22}, a_{24}), \\ (3; 11, a_8, a_{10}, a_{12}), (4; 12, a_{13}, a_{15}, a_{17}), (5; 13, a_{25}, a_{27}, a_{29}), \\ (6; 14, a_{19}, a_{21}, a_{23}), (7; 15, a_7, a_9, a_{11})\};$$

$$F_2 = \{(a_7; 8, 9, 10, 11), (a_8; 12, 13, 14, 15), (a_9; 24, 25, 26, 27), \\ (a_{10}; 28, 29, 30, 31), (a_{11}; 32, 33, 34, 35), (a_{12}; 36, 37, 38, 39), \\ (0; 16, a_{26}, a_{28}, a_{30}), (1; 17, a_2, a_4, a_6), (2; 18, a_{14}, a_{16}, a_{18}), \\ (3; 19, a_{20}, a_{22}, a_{24}), (4; 20, a_1, a_3, a_5), (5; 21, a_{19}, a_{21}, a_{23}), \\ (6; 22, a_{13}, a_{15}, a_{17}), (7; 23, a_{25}, a_{27}, a_{29})\};$$

$$F_3 = \{(a_{13}; 8, 9, 10, 11), (a_{14}; 20, 21, 22, 23), (a_{15}; 24, 25, 26, 27), \\ (a_{16}; 28, 29, 30, 31), (a_{17}; 32, 33, 34, 35), (a_{18}; 36, 37, 38, 39), \\ (0; 12, a_8, a_{10}, a_{12}), (1; 13, a_{20}, a_{22}, a_{24}), (2; 14, a_2, a_4, a_6), \\ (3; 15, a_{26}, a_{28}, a_{30}), (4; 16, a_7, a_9, a_{11}), (5; 17, a_1, a_3, a_5), \\ (6; 18, a_{25}, a_{27}, a_{29}), (7; 19, a_{19}, a_{21}, a_{23})\};$$

$$F_4 = \{(a_{19}; 8, 9, 10, 11), (a_{20}; 12, 13, 22, 23), (a_{21}; 24, 25, 26, 27), \\ (a_{22}; 28, 29, 30, 31), (a_{23}; 32, 33, 34, 35), (a_{24}; 36, 37, 38, 39), \\ (0; 14, a_2, a_4, a_6), (1; 15, a_8, a_{10}, a_{12}), (2; 16, a_{26}, a_{28}, a_{30}), \\ (3; 17, a_{14}, a_{16}, a_{18}), (4; 18, a_{25}, a_{27}, a_{29}), (5; 19, a_7, a_9, a_{11}), \\ (6; 20, a_1, a_3, a_5), (7; 21, a_{13}, a_{15}, a_{17})\};$$

$$F_5 = \{(a_{25}; 8, 9, 10, 11), (a_{26}; 12, 13, 14, 15), (a_{27}; 16, 17, 26, 27), \\ (a_{28}; 28, 29, 30, 31), (a_{29}; 32, 33, 34, 35), (a_{30}; 36, 37, 38, 39), \\ (0; 18, a_{20}, a_{22}, a_{24}), (1; 19, a_{14}, a_{16}, a_{18}), (2; 20, a_8, a_{10}, a_{12}), \\ (3; 21, a_2, a_4, a_6), (4; 22, a_{19}, a_{21}, a_{23}), (5; 23, a_{13}, a_{15}, a_{17}), \\ (6; 24, a_7, a_9, a_{11}), (7; 25, a_1, a_3, a_5)\}.$$

For each  $j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , take the five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors  $F_j + 8i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ , where  $a_k + x = a_k$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{40}$  and for every  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 30$ . Let  $D = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20\}$ , i.e. the set of the 15 differences not covered by the 25 above factors, and decompose the graph consisting of the edges  $\{i, d + i\}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{40}$  and  $d \in D$ , as follows.

For  $(r', s') = (29, 0)$ , apply the theorem of Stern and Lenz to decompose the graph consisting of the edges  $\{i, d + i\}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{40}$  and  $d \in D$ , into 29 partial 1-factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{40}$ .

For  $(r', s') = (21, 5)$ , take the base block  $B = (0; 7, 9, 11, 13)$ , whose orbit modulo 40 can be decomposed into five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{40}$ :

$$F'_j = \{B + j + 5k : k = 0, 1, \dots, 7\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

Decompose the graph whose edges cover the remaining differences of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.

For  $(r', s') = (13, 10)$ , take the base blocks

$$B = (0; 7, 9, 11, 13) \text{ and } B_1 = (0; 1, 2, 3, 4),$$

which give in total ten  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{40}$ . Then decompose the graph whose edges cover the differences of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.

For  $(r', s') = (5, 15)$ , take the base blocks  $B = (0; 7, 9, 11, 13)$ ,  $B_2 = (0; 3, 4, 5, 19)$  and  $B_3 = (6; 7, 8, 12, 21)$ . Obtain five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{40}$  from  $B$ , and ten  $K_{1,4}$ -factors from  $B_2$  and  $B_3$  as follows:

$$F''_j = \{B_2 + j + 10k, B_3 + j + 10k : k = 0, 1, 2, 3\}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, 9.$$

Decompose the graph whose edges cover the remaining differences 10, 17 and 20 of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.22.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD(70, 30;  $[r', s'], [r, s]$ ) exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(30)$  and  $(r, s) \in I(40)$ .*

*Proof.* The case  $(r, s) = (0, 25)$  follows by Lemma 4.21. For any  $(r, s) \in I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ , start from the decomposition of the graph  $K_7 \setminus K_3$  on  $X = \{x, y, z\} \cup \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\}$  into one 4-cycle  $C_0 = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)$  and two hamiltonian cycles  $C_1 = (a_1, a_3, y, a_2, z, a_4, x)$  and  $C_2 = (a_1, z, a_3, x, a_2, a_4, y)$ . Expand each vertex 10 times and on  $V(C_j) \times \mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , for  $j = 0, 1, 2$ , place a copy of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD( $r_j, s_j$ ) of  $C_{m(10)}$  ( $m = 4$  or  $7$ ) with  $(r_j, s_j) \in I(20)$  (given by Lemma 4.11). It follows that, corresponding to the hamiltonian cycles  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , there are  $r$  full 1-factors and  $s$  full  $K_{1,4}$ -factors, where  $(r, s) = (r_1 + r_2, s_1 + s_2) \in 2 * I(20) = I(40) \setminus \{(0, 25)\}$ ; while  $C_0$  provides  $r_0$  partial 1-factors and  $s_0$  partial  $K_{1,4}$ -factors missing the hole  $\{x, y, z\} \times \mathbb{Z}_{10}$ . Now, placing on each set  $\{a_i\} \times \mathbb{Z}_{10}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , a copy of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD(10,  $r'', s''$ ) with  $(r'', s'') \in J(10)$  (from Lemma 4.4) gives further  $r''$  partial 1-factors and  $s''$  partial  $K_{1,4}$ -factors so that the resulting design is a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD(70, 30;  $[r', s'], [r, s]$ ), where  $(r', s') = (r_0 + r'', s_0 + s'') \in I(20) + J(10) = J(30)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.23.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD(110, 30;  $[r', s'], [r, s]$ ) exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(30)$  and  $(r, s) \in \{(8, 45), (0, 50)\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $V = \mathbb{Z}_{80} \cup \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{30}\}$  be the vertex set, where  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{30}\}$  is the hole. Consider the two  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $V$ :

$$F_1 = \{(a_{25}; 16, 18, 20, 22), (a_{26}; 24, 26, 28, 30), (a_{27}; 32, 34, 36, 38), \\ (a_{28}; 17, 19, 21, 23), (a_{29}; 25, 27, 29, 31), (a_{30}; 33, 35, 37, 39), \\ (0; 14, a_{22}, a_{23}, a_{24}), (1; 15, a_{19}, a_{20}, a_{21}), (2; 8, a_{16}, a_{17}, a_{18}), \\ (3; 9, a_{13}, a_{14}, a_{15}), (4; 12, a_{10}, a_{11}, a_{12}), (5; 13, a_7, a_8, a_9), \\ (6; 10, a_4, a_5, a_6), (7; 11, a_1, a_2, a_3), \\ (40; 67, 68, 69, 70), (41; 62, 64, 66, 72), (42; 63, 65, 73, 78), \\ (43; 54, 58, 60, 79), (44; 55, 56, 59, 61), (45; 48, 50, 52, 57), \\ (46; 49, 51, 53, 71), (47; 74, 75, 76, 77)\};$$

$$F_2 = \{(a_{25}; 4, 14, 24, 34), (a_{26}; 2, 12, 22, 32), (a_{27}; 0, 10, 20, 30), \\ (a_{28}; 5, 15, 25, 35), (a_{29}; 3, 13, 23, 33), (a_{30}; 1, 11, 21, 31), \\ (46; 56, a_{22}, a_{23}, a_{24}), (47; 57, a_{19}, a_{20}, a_{21}), (44; 54, a_{16}, a_{17}, a_{18}), \\ (45; 55, a_{13}, a_{14}, a_{15}), (42; 52, a_{10}, a_{11}, a_{12}), (43; 53, a_7, a_8, a_9), \\ (40; 50, a_4, a_5, a_6), (41; 51, a_1, a_2, a_3), \\ (6; 8, 48, 64, 66), (7; 9, 49, 65, 67), (16; 18, 74, 76, 62), \\ (17; 19, 75, 77, 63), (26; 28, 68, 60, 72), (27; 29, 69, 61, 73), \\ (36; 38, 78, 70, 58), (37; 39, 79, 71, 59)\};$$

and the sets of pairs  $A_1 = \{\{0, 20\}, \{1, 21\}, \{6, 26\}, \{7, 27\}\}$  and  $A_2 = \{\{2, 40\}, \{3, 41\}, \{6, 28\}, \{7, 29\}\}$ .

Take the 50 full  $K_{1,4}$ -factors  $F_1 + 2i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 39$ , and  $F_2 + 8i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 9$ , where  $a_k + x = a_{k+3x}$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{80}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 30$ ; and the two partial 1-factors  $(A_j) = \{\{x + 8i, y + 8i\} : \{x, y\} \in A_j, i = 0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Let  $D = \{1, 9, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 26, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39, 40\}$ , i.e. the set of the 14 differences not covered by  $(A_1)$ ,  $(A_2)$  and the above 50 full  $K_{1,4}$ -factors. Decompose the graph consisting of the edges  $\{i, d + i\}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{80}$  and  $d \in D$ , as follows:

For  $(r', s') = (29, 0)$ , apply the theorem of Stern and Lenz to decompose the graph consisting of the edges  $\{i, d + i\}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{80}$  and  $d \in D$ , into 27 partial 1-factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{80}$  so to obtain 29 partial 1-factors along with  $(A_1)$  and  $(A_2)$ .

For  $(r', s') = (21, 5)$ , take the base block  $B = (0; 26, 32, 33, 39)$ , whose orbit can be decomposed into five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{80}$ :

$$F'_j = \{B + j + 5k : k = 0, 1, \dots, 15\}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

Decompose the graph whose edges cover the remaining differences of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.

For  $(r', s') = (13, 10)$ , take the base blocks  $B = (0; 26, 32, 33, 39)$  and  $B_1 = (0; 1, 13, 24, 37)$ , which give in total ten  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{80}$ , while decomposing the graph whose edges cover the differences of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.

For  $(r', s') = (5, 15)$ , take the base blocks  $B = (0; 26, 32, 33, 39)$ ,  $B_2 = (0; 1, 16, 19, 35)$  and  $B_3 = (4; 13, 17, 22, 28)$ . Obtain five  $K_{1,4}$ -factors on  $\mathbb{Z}_{80}$  from  $B$ , and ten

$K_{1,4}$ -factors from  $B_2$  and  $B_3$  as follows:

$$F''_j = \{B_2 + j + 10k, B_3 + j + 10k : k = 0, 1, \dots, 7\}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, 9.$$

Decompose the graph whose edges cover the remaining differences 37 and 40 of  $D$  into 1-factors by using the theorem of Stern and Lenz.

Finally, to prove the existence of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD $(110, 30; [r', s'], (8, 45))$ , with  $(r', s') \in J(30)$ , it will be sufficient to start from the constructed  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD $(110, 30; [r, s], (0, 50))$ . Destroy the 5 full  $K_{1,4}$ -factors  $F_1 + 16i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ , and rearrange the resulting edges into the 8 full 1-factors  $(M_j) = \{\{x + 16i, y + 16i\} : \{x, y\} \in M_j, i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}, j = 1, 2, \dots, 8$ , where:

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{7, a_3\}, \{6, a_5\}, \{5, a_7\}, \{2, a_{18}\}, \{1, a_{20}\}, \{0, a_{22}\}, \\ \{4, 12\}, \{40, 67\}, \{41, 62\}, \{43, 58\}, \{47, 77\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_2 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{6, a_6\}, \{5, a_8\}, \{4, a_{10}\}, \{1, a_{21}\}, \{0, a_{23}\}, \{18, a_{25}\}, \\ \{7, 11\}, \{42, 63\}, \{44, 56\}, \{45, 57\}, \{46, 51\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_3 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{5, a_9\}, \{4, a_{11}\}, \{3, a_{13}\}, \{0, a_{24}\}, \{30, a_{26}\}, \{17, a_{28}\}, \\ \{6, 10\}, \{41, 72\}, \{43, 79\}, \{44, 55\}, \{45, 50\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_4 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{7, a_1\}, \{4, a_{12}\}, \{3, a_{14}\}, \{2, a_{16}\}, \{38, a_{27}\}, \{29, a_{29}\}, \\ \{40, 69\}, \{41, 64\}, \{44, 59\}, \{46, 49\}, \{47, 74\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_5 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{7, a_2\}, \{6, a_4\}, \{3, a_{15}\}, \{2, a_{17}\}, \{1, a_{19}\}, \{37, a_{30}\}, \\ \{0, 14\}, \{40, 68\}, \{42, 73\}, \{44, 61\}, \{47, 75\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_6 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{20, a_{25}\}, \{28, a_{26}\}, \{32, a_{27}\}, \{23, a_{28}\}, \{31, a_{29}\}, \{33, a_{30}\}, \\ \{2, 8\}, \{3, 9\}, \{5, 13\}, \{42, 78\}, \{43, 54\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_7 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{16, a_{25}\}, \{26, a_{26}\}, \{34, a_{27}\}, \{19, a_{28}\}, \{25, a_{29}\}, \{39, a_{30}\}, \\ \{1, 15\}, \{40, 70\}, \{45, 52\}, \{46, 53\}, \{43, 60\} \end{array} \right\}; \\ M_8 &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{22, a_{25}\}, \{24, a_{26}\}, \{36, a_{27}\}, \{21, a_{28}\}, \{27, a_{29}\}, \{35, a_{30}\}, \\ \{41, 66\}, \{42, 65\}, \{45, 48\}, \{46, 71\}, \{47, 76\} \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 4.24.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD $(110, 30; [r', s'], [r, s])$  exists for every  $(r', s') \in J(30)$  and  $(r, s) \in I(80)$ .*

*Proof.* The cases  $(r, s) = (8, 45), (0, 50)$  follow by Lemma 4.21. For any  $(r, s) \in I(80) \setminus \{(8, 45), (0, 50)\}$ , start from the decomposition of the graph  $K_{11} \setminus K_3$  on  $X = \{x, y, z\} \cup \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8\}$  into one 8-cycle  $C_0 = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8)$  and four hamiltonian cycles

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= (a_1, x, a_3, y, a_5, z, a_7, a_2, a_6, a_8, a_4), \\ C_2 &= (a_2, x, a_4, y, a_6, z, a_8, a_3, a_1, a_7, a_5), \\ C_3 &= (a_5, x, a_7, y, a_1, z, a_3, a_6, a_4, a_2, a_8), \\ C_4 &= (a_6, x, a_8, y, a_2, z, a_4, a_7, a_3, a_5, a_1). \end{aligned}$$

Expanding each vertex 10 times and using similar arguments to the proof of Lemma 4.22 gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -IURD $(110, 30; [r', s'], [r, s])$  for each  $(r', s') \in I(20) + J(10) = J(30)$  and  $(r, s) \in 4 * I(20) = I(80) \setminus \{(8, 45), (0, 50)\}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.25.** *Let  $v = 50, 70, 90, 110$ . A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v, r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Filling Construction to the IURDs of Lemmas 4.16, 4.20, 4.22 and 4.24. The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.4 and 4.13.  $\square$

The next three results are all obtained by applying the Frame-Construction with various parameters. We leave them as separate results so that it is easier for the reader to find each case.

**Lemma 4.26.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(190; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(190)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Frame-Construction with  $t = 20$  and  $h = 30$  to a 3-frame of type  $2^4$  (where  $\alpha = 1$ ) to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(190; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(30) + 4 * I(40) = J(30) + I(160) = J(190)$  (where the first equality follows by Lemma 4.1). The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.10, 4.13 and 4.22.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.27.** *Let  $v = 690, 930$ . A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Frame-Construction with  $t = 40$  and  $h = 10$  to a 2-frame of type  $1 \frac{v-10}{40}$  (where  $\alpha = 1$ ) to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(10) + \frac{v-10}{40} * I(40) = J(10) + I(v-10) = J(v)$  (where the first equality follows by Lemma 4.1). The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.4, 4.12 and 4.16.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.28.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(1290; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(1290)$ .*

*Proof.* Apply the Frame-Construction with  $t = 40$  and  $h = 10$  to a 2-frame of type  $2^{16}$  (where  $\alpha = 2$ ) to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(1290; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(10) + 32 * I(40) = J(10) + I(1280) = J(1290)$  (where the first equality follows by Lemma 4.1). The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.4, 4.12 and 4.20.  $\square$

## 5 The main result

In the proof of the following lemmas we make use of the equality  $\alpha * I(n) = I(\alpha n)$ , which holds by Lemma 4.1 when  $n$  is a multiple of 8.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{40}$ . Then a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD  $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = 40k$ ,  $k \geq 1$ . The case  $v = 40$  follows by Lemma 4.7. For  $k > 1$ , applying the GDD-Construction with  $t = 20$  to a  $C_{2k}$ -RGDD of type  $2^k$ , i.e., a



decomposition of  $K_{k(2)}$  into  $\alpha = k - 1$  hamiltonian cycles (see [15]), gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of type  $40^k$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in (k - 1) * I(40)$ . (The input designs are given by Lemma 4.10.) Filling each group with a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(40; r', s')$  with  $(r', s') \in J(40)$  (from Lemma 4.7) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(40) + (k - 1) * I(40) = J(40) + \frac{v-40}{40} * I(40) = J(40) + I(v - 40) = J(v)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $v \equiv 10 \pmod{40}$ . Then a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = 40k + 10, k \geq 0$ . The cases  $v = 10, 50, 90, 690, 930, 1290$  follow by Lemmas 4.4, 4.25, 4.27, and 4.28. For  $k > 2, k \neq 17, 23, 32$ , start from a 5-RGDD of type  $1^{20k+5}$  (where  $\alpha = 5k + 1$ , see [1, 2, 3, 9, 26]). Applying the GDD-construction with  $t = 2$  gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of type  $2^{20k+5}$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in (5k + 1) * I(8)$  (the input designs are given by Lemma 4.3). Now fill the groups with a trivial  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(2; 1, 0)$  to get a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in \{(1, 0)\} + (5k + 1) * I(8) = \{(1, 0)\} + \frac{v-2}{8} * I(8) = \{(1, 0)\} + I(v - 2) = J(v)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.3.** *Let  $v \equiv 20 \pmod{40}$ . Then a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = 40k + 20, k \geq 0$ . The case  $v = 20$  follows by Lemma 4.6. For  $k > 0$ , applying the GDD-Construction with  $t = 20$  to a  $C_{2k+1}$ -cycle system of order  $2k + 1$ , i.e. a decomposition of  $K_{2k+1}$  into  $\alpha = k$  hamiltonian cycles (see [3, 16]), gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URGDD $(\bar{r}, \bar{s})$  of type  $20^{2k+1}$  for each  $(\bar{r}, \bar{s}) \in k * I(40)$ . (The input designs are given by Lemma 4.10.) Filling each group with a copy of a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(20; r', s')$ , with  $(r', s') \in J(20)$  (from Lemma 4.6) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(20) + k * I(40) = J(20) + \frac{v-20}{40} * I(40) = J(20) + I(v - 20) = J(v)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4.** *Let  $v \equiv 30 \pmod{80}$ . Then a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = 80k + 30, k \geq 0$ . The cases  $v = 30, 110, 190$  follow by Lemmas 4.13, 4.25 and 4.26. For  $k > 2$ , applying the Frame-Construction with  $t = 40$  and  $h = 30$  to a 2-frame of type  $2^k$  (where  $\alpha = 2$ ) gives a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(30) + 2k * I(40) = J(30) + \frac{v-30}{40} * I(40) = J(30) + I(v - 30) = J(v)$ . (The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.12, 4.13 and 4.24.)  $\square$

**Lemma 5.5.** *Let  $v \equiv 70 \pmod{80}$ . Then a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  exists for every  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = 80k + 70, k \geq 0$ . The case  $v = 70$  follows by Lemma 4.25. For  $k > 0$ , apply the Frame-Construction with  $t = 40$  and  $h = 30$  to a 2-frame of type  $1^{2k+1}$  (where  $\alpha = 1$ ) to obtain a  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$  for each  $(r, s) \in J(30) + (2k + 1) * I(40) = J(30) + \frac{v-30}{40} * I(40) = J(30) + I(v - 30) = J(v)$ . (The input designs are given by Lemmas 4.12, 4.13 and 4.22.)  $\square$

As consequence of Lemmas 2.1, 5.1–5.5, our main result immediately follows.

**Theorem 5.6.** *A  $(K_2, K_{1,4})$ -URD $(v; r, s)$ , with  $r, s > 0$ , exists if and only if  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$  and  $(r, s) \in J(v)$ .*

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