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*Publication date:*  
2005

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Jørgensen, L. K. (2005). *Non-symmetric 3-class association schemes*. Aalborg Universitetsforlag. Research Report Series No. R-2005-13

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## Non-symmetric 3-class association schemes

by

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R-2005-13

March 2005

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# Non-symmetric 3-class association schemes

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## Abstract

There are 24 feasible parameter sets for a primitive non-symmetric association schemes with 3 classes and at most 100 vertices. Using computer search, we prove non-existence for three feasible parameter sets. Eleven cases are still open.

In the imprimitive case, we survey the known results including some constructions of infinite families of schemes. In the smallest case that has been open up to now we construct a new scheme. This scheme is equivalent to a “skew” Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order 36. We also consider directed graphs that satisfy only some of the conditions required for a non-symmetric association scheme with 3 classes.

Let  $X$  be finite set ( $|X| = v$ ) and let  $\{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_d\}$  be a partition of  $X \times X$ . Then we say that  $\mathcal{X} = (X, \{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_d\})$  is an association scheme with  $d$  classes if the following conditions are satisfied

- $R_0 = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$ .
- for each  $i$ ,  $R_i^t := \{(x, y) \mid (y, x) \in R_i\} = R_{i'}$ , for some  $i'$ .
- for each triple  $(i, j, h)$ ,  $i, j, h \in \{0, \dots, d\}$  there exists a so-called intersection number  $p_{ij}^h$  such that for all  $x, y \in X$  with  $(x, y) \in R_h$  there are exactly  $p_{ij}^h$  elements  $z \in X$  so that  $(x, z) \in R_i$  and  $(z, y) \in R_j$ .

If  $i = i'$  for all  $i$  then  $\mathcal{X}$  is said to be symmetric, otherwise it is non-symmetric. If the graphs  $R_1, \dots, R_d$  all are connected then we say that  $\mathcal{X}$  is primitive, otherwise it is imprimitive.

In this paper we consider non-symmetric association schemes with  $d = 3$  classes. We will assume that the relations are enumerated so that  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are non-symmetric,  $R_2 = R_1^t$ , and  $R_3$  is a symmetric relation. In this case the association scheme is determined uniquely by relation  $R_1$ .

If  $A$  denotes the adjacency matrix of the relation  $R_1$  then the adjacency matrices of  $R_0$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are  $I$ ,  $A^t$  and  $J - I - A - A^t$ , respectively. The Bose-Mesner algebra of  $\mathcal{X}$  is the matrix algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  spanned these four matrices, see Bannai and Ito [1].

Higman [10] proved that an association scheme with  $d \leq 4$  has a commutative Bose-Mesner algebra, which means that  $p_{ij}^h = p_{ji}^h$ , for all  $i, j, h$ .

Thus multiplication in the Bose-Mesner algebra is determined by the following equations.

$$AJ = JA = \kappa J \tag{1}$$

$$AA^t = \kappa I + \lambda(A + A^t) + \mu(J - I - A - A^t) \tag{2}$$

$$A^t A = \kappa I + \lambda(A + A^t) + \mu(J - I - A - A^t) \tag{3}$$

$$A^2 = \alpha A + \beta A^t + \gamma(J - I - A - A^t), \tag{4}$$

where  $\kappa = p_{12}^0$ ,  $\lambda = p_{12}^1 = p_{21}^1$ ,  $\mu = p_{12}^3 = p_{21}^3$ ,  $\alpha = p_{11}^1$ ,  $\beta = p_{11}^2$  and  $\gamma = p_{11}^3$ .

We note that  $\alpha = \lambda$ . This is seen by counting in two ways the pairs  $(y, z)$  so that  $(x, y), (x, z), (y, z) \in R_1$ , for a fixed vertex  $x$ .

Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative and consists of normal matrices, the matrices of  $\mathcal{A}$  have a common diagonalization, i.e.,  $\mathcal{A}$  has a basis  $\{E_0, E_1, E_2, E_3\}$  of orthogonal projections.

A relation (say  $R_1$ ) of a symmetric association scheme with two classes is a strongly regular graph with parameters  $(v, k, a, c)$ , where  $v = |X|$ ,  $k = p_{11}^0$ ,  $a = p_{11}^1$ ,  $c = p_{11}^2$ . And conversely, if  $R_1$  is a strongly regular graph and  $R_2$  is the complementary graph of  $R_1$ , then  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form a symmetric association scheme with two classes.

A relation of a non-symmetric association scheme with two classes is called a doubly regular tournament. Reid and Brown [19] proved that there exists a doubly regular tournament with  $n$  vertices if and only if there exists a skew Hadamard matrix of order  $n + 1$ . Thus a necessary condition is that  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

Since a non-symmetric association  $\mathcal{X}$  with 3 classes is commutative, the symmetrization  $(X, \{R_0, R_1 \cup R_2, R_3\})$  is also an association scheme, thus  $R_3$  is a strongly regular graph and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are orientations of a strongly

regular graph. In fact  $R_1 \cup R_2$  is a strongly regular graph with parameters

$$(v, k, a, c) = (v, 2p_{12}^0, p_{11}^1 + p_{12}^1 + p_{21}^1 + p_{22}^1, p_{11}^3 + p_{12}^3 + p_{21}^3 + p_{22}^3) \quad (5)$$

$$= (v, 2p_{12}^0, 3p_{12}^1 + p_{22}^1, 2(p_{11}^3 + p_{12}^3)) \quad (6)$$

In [13], we prove the following.

**Lemma 1** *If  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of a regular directed graph (i.e., equation (1) is satisfied), then equation (2) and equation (3) are equivalent.*

(This is also an alternative proof of the commutativity of the Bose-Mesner algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ .) A directed graph whose adjacency matrix satisfies these equations is called normally regular. The eigenvalues of a normally regular digraph have the following property.

**Theorem 2 ([13])** *If the adjacency matrix  $A$  of a regular directed graph satisfies equation (2) then an eigenvalue  $\theta \neq k$  lies on the circle in the complex plane with centre  $\lambda - \mu$  and radius  $\sqrt{k - \mu + (\lambda - \mu)^2}$  and  $\theta + \bar{\theta}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A + A^t$ .*

If  $A$  satisfies all the equations (1), (2), (3), (4) then it has four eigenvalues  $\kappa$ , and say  $\rho$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $\bar{\sigma}$  with multiplicities 1,  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$  and  $m_2$ , respectively, and the eigenvalues of  $A + A^t$  are  $2\kappa$ ,  $2\rho$ , and  $\sigma + \bar{\sigma}$  with multiplicities 1,  $m_1$ , and  $2m_2$ .

For parameters  $v$  and  $p_{ij}^h$ ,  $i, j, h \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  the parameters of  $R_1 \cup R_2$  can be computed from equation (6). Using standard formulas, the spectrum of  $R_1 \cup R_2$  can then be computed. From this it is possible to compute eigenvalues and multiplicities of  $R_1$  (e.g. using Theorem 2). For arbitrary intersection numbers the result may be expressions for the multiplicities which are not integers.

**Definition 1** *We say that  $v$  and  $p_{ij}^h$ ,  $i, j, h \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  form a feasible parameter set for a non-symmetric association scheme with three classes if they are non-negative integers and the multiplicities of the (four) eigenvalues computed from these intersection numbers are positive integers.*

However, Bannai and Song proved that the spectrum of  $A$  can be computed from the spectrum of  $A + A^t$ . (We note that if the eigenvalues of  $A + A^t$  are  $2k, r, s$  then either  $r$  or  $s$  can be split in two complex eigenvalues, if their multiplicities are even.)

**Lemma 3 (Bannai and Song [2])** *If  $s = \sigma + \bar{\sigma}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A + A^t$  then  $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}(s + i\sqrt{v\kappa/m_2})$ .*

From the spectrum of  $A$  it is possible to compute the intersection numbers.

The Hadamard product of matrices  $B = (b_{ij})$  and  $C = (c_{ij})$  is the matrix  $B \circ C = (b_{ij}c_{ij})$ . Since  $\{I, A, A^t, J - A - A^t - I\}$  is a basis of  $\mathcal{A}$ , it follows by considering the Hadamard product of these matrices that  $\mathcal{A}$  is closed under the Hadamard product. In particular, there exist numbers  $q_{ij}^h$ , for  $i, j, h \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ , so that  $E_i \circ E_j = \frac{1}{v} \sum_h q_{ij}^h E_h$ . These numbers are called Krein parameters. It is known that each Krein parameter is a non-negative real number, see Bannai and Ito [1]. Since the Krein parameters can be computed from the spectrum of  $A$ , this can be used to prove non-existence for some feasible parameter sets.

Neumaier [17] found another way to exclude feasible parameter sets. Let  $m_i$  be the rank of  $E_i$ , for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ . (Thus  $m_0, \dots, m_3$  are the multiplicities of eigenvalues.)

**Theorem 4 ([17])** *The following inequalities are satisfied for a commutative association scheme.*

$$\sum_{h: q_{ii}^h > 0} m_h \leq \frac{1}{2}m_i(m_i + 1), \quad \text{for } i = 0, \dots, d,$$

$$\sum_{h: q_{ij}^h > 0} m_h \leq m_i m_j, \quad \text{for } i, j = 0, \dots, d, \quad i \neq j$$

## 1 Primitive association schemes with three classes.

Below we give a list of feasible parameter sets for primitive association schemes with three classes and  $|X| \leq 100$ . For each feasible parameter set  $(v, k, a, c)$  of a strongly regular graph we investigate the feasible parameters of non-symmetric association schemes with three classes such that  $R_1 \cup R_2$  has parameters  $(v, k, a, c)$ . It follows from equation (6) that we need only consider parameters where  $k$  and  $c$  are even. It is also useful to know that the eigenvalues of  $R_1 \cup R_2$  are integers. This follows from the next lemma.

**Lemma 5 (Goldbach and Claasen [8])** *There is no non-symmetric association schemes with three classes so that  $R_1 \cup R_2$  has parameters  $(4c + 1, 2c, c - 1, c)$ .*

In parameter sets no. 7, 11 and 21 it is known that the strongly regular graph does not exist, see Brouwer [3].

In parameter set no. 17 some of the Krein parameters are negative. Thus this case is excluded. The multiplicities of eigenvalues for parameter sets no. 16 and 22 do not satisfy Neumaier's condition.

No.	Parameters for $R_1 \cup R_2$	$p_{12}^1$	$p_{12}^3$	exists	reference
1	(16, 10, 6, 6)	1	2	no	Goldbach and Claasen [7]
2	(21, 10, 3, 6)	1	1	no	Enomoto and Mena [5]
3	(36, 14, 4, 6)	0	2	yes	Goldbach and Claasen [6]
4	(36, 20, 10, 12)	3	2	NO	Theorem 8
5	(45, 32, 22, 24)	6	4	NO	Theorem 7
6	(50, 42, 35, 36)	8	12	NO	Theorem 6
7	(57, 42, 31, 30)	7	9	no	Wilbrink and Brouwer [22]
8	(64, 28, 12, 12)	4	2	yes	Enomoto and Mena [5]
9	(64, 36, 20, 20)	4	6	?	
10	(64, 42, 26, 30)	7	6	?	
11	(64, 42, 30, 22)	7	6	no	absolute bound
12	(81, 50, 31, 30)	9	5	?	
13	(85, 64, 48, 48)	13	8	?	
14	(85, 70, 57, 60)	13	20	?	
15	(96, 38, 10, 18)	3	4	?	
16	(96, 50, 22, 30)	3	10	no	Neumaier
17	(96, 60, 38, 36)	11	6	no	Krein
18	(96, 76, 60, 60)	16	10	?	
19	(100, 44, 18, 20)	3	6	?	
20	(100, 54, 28, 30)	8	6	?	
21	(100, 66, 39, 52)	10	12	no	absolute bound
22	(100, 66, 41, 48)	8	16	no	Neumaier
23	(100, 66, 44, 42)	10	12	?	
24	(100, 72, 50, 56)	13	12	?	

For parameters no. 6,  $R_3$  is a strongly regular graph with parameters  $(50, 7, 0, 1)$ , i.e., it is the Hoffman-Singleton graph. This case can be excluded,

by investigating possible orientations of the complement of the Hoffmann-Singleton graph.

**Theorem 6** *There is no non-symmetric association scheme with three classes where  $R_3$  is the Hoffman-Singleton graph.*

**Proof.** Suppose that there exists a non-symmetric association scheme with three classes where  $R_3$  is the Hoffman-Singleton graph. Let  $x$  be a vertex and let  $x_1, \dots, x_7$  be the neighbours of  $x$  in  $R_3$ . Let  $S_i$  be the set of neighbours of  $x_i$  other than  $x$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 7$ . Let  $N^+(x)$  be the set of out-neighbours of  $x$  in  $R_1$ . Then  $N^+(x)$  is a set of 21 vertices in the set  $N_2(x) := S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_7$  of vertices at distance 2 from  $x$ , and  $|S_i \cap N^+(x)| = p_{13}^3 = 3$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 7$ . The subgraph of  $R_3$  spanned by  $N^+(x)$  is regular of degree  $p_{13}^1 = 4$ . The complement of  $N^+(x)$  in  $S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_7$  is the set of in-neighbours of  $x$  in  $R_1$  and this set also spans a 4-regular subgraph of  $R_3$ .

A computer enumeration shows that there are exactly 1140 subsets of  $N_2(x)$  with the properties required for  $N^+(x)$ . These 1140 subsets form three orbits under the action of the subgroup of the automorphism group of the Hoffman-Singleton graph stabilizing the vertex  $x$ .

For each pair  $x, y$  of vertices, the orientation of the edges incident with  $x$  and the orientation of the edges incident with  $y$  should agree on the orientation of the edge  $\{x, y\}$  if  $x$  and  $y$  are non-adjacent in  $R_3$ , and they should satisfy that for all  $i, j$  the number of vertices  $z$  so that  $(x, z) \in R_i$  and  $(z, y) \in R_j$  is exactly  $p_{ij}^h$  where  $(x, y) \in R_h$ .

A computer search shows that there are no orientations all of edges incident with  $x, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  and  $x_5$  that satisfy these conditions. Thus the required association scheme does not exist.  $\square$

For parameters no. 5,  $R_3$  is a strongly regular graph with parameters  $(v, k, a, c) = (45, 12, 3, 3)$ .

E. Spence, see [21], has shown that there are exactly 78 strongly regular graphs with these parameters. This result was verified by J. Degraer and K. Coolsaet (personal communication with Spence).

Thus the method from the previous theorem can be applied to each of these 78 graphs.

**Theorem 7** *There is no primitive non-symmetric association scheme with three classes with parameterset no. 5.*



**Proof.** Suppose that there exists such an association scheme. Let  $x$  be a vertex and let  $x_1, \dots, x_{12}$  be the neighbours of  $x$  in  $R_3$ . Let  $S_i$  be the set of neighbours of  $x_i$  at distance 2 from  $x$ ,  $|S_i| = k - a - 1 = 8$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 12$ . Let  $N^+(x)$  be the set out-neighbours of  $x$  in  $R_1$ . Then  $N^+(x)$  is a set of 16 vertices in the set  $N_2(x) := S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_{12}$ , and  $|S_i \cap N^+(x)| = p_{13}^3 = 4$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 12$ . The subgraph of  $R_3$  spanned by  $N^+(x)$  is regular of degree  $p_{13}^1 = 3$ .

The computer search shows that if  $N$  is a set with  $|S_i \cap N| = 4$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 12$ , and in which every vertex has degree at most 3 then  $N$  is 3-regular and the subgraph of  $R_3$  spanned by  $N_2(x) \setminus N$  is also 3-regular.

The number of such sets  $N$  depend on the graph and the vertex  $x$ . The largest number of sets is 396, which appear in the graph with a rank 3 automorphism group.

44 of the 78 candidates for  $R_3$  can be excluded because, for at least one vertex  $x$ , there is no such set  $N$ .

For each of the other 34 graphs we find by computer search a set  $W$  of at most 8 vertices so that there is no combination of orientations of edges in the complement of  $R_3$  incident with  $w$ , for each  $w \in W$  that satisfies the required properties. (This search took 45 minutes on a 2.4 GHz PC.)

Thus an association scheme with parameterset no. 5 does not exist.  $\square$

Using computersearch we can exclude one more case.

**Theorem 8** *There is no primitive non-symmetric association scheme with three classes with parameter set no. 4.*

**Proof.** We use an orderly search algorithm (see Read [18]) to search for the matrix  $B = 3A_3 + 2A_2 + A_1$ , where  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  are adjacency matrices of the relations  $R_1, R_2, R_3$  of an association scheme with parameter set no. 4.

We want the vertices to be enumerated so that the matrix  $B$  is in maximal form, i.e., the sequence obtained by reading the entries of the first row followed by the entries of the second row, etc., is as large as possible (in the lexicographic order) among all enumerations of the vertices.

It turns out that with this condition (and for parameter set no. 4) it is convenient to enumerate the relations so that  $R_1$  is symmetric and  $R_2^t = R_3$ .

Suppose that the first  $r - 1$  rows of the matrix  $B = (b_{ij})$  has been filled in. We then investigate all possible ways to fill in row  $r$  with 0 on the diagonal entry,  $p_{11}^0 = 15$  entries with 1's,  $p_{22}^0 = 10$  entries with 2's, and  $p_{33}^0 = 10$  entries with 3's in such a way that

- the first  $r - 1$  entries are in accordance with the entries of column  $r$  of the previous rows.
- for each  $x < r$  the number of columns  $s$ , so that  $b_{xs} = i$  and  $b_{rs} = j'$  is exactly  $p_{ij}^h$ , where  $b_{xr} = h$ .
- the matrix is still in maximal form.

We find that the number of ways to fill in the first  $r$  rows is 1, 1, 100, 24161, 205671, 1116571, 52650, 0,  $\dots$ , 0, for  $r = 1, \dots, 36$ . Thus the required association scheme does not exist. (This search took 81 minutes on a 2.4 GHz PC.)  $\square$

## 2 Imprimitive association schemes with three classes.

If  $R_3$  is connected but  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are disconnected then each connected component of  $R_1$  is a doubly regular tournament on  $2p_{12}^0 + 1$  vertices. Thus the study of these schemes reduces to the study of doubly regular tournaments.

We will thus assume that  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are connected and  $R_3$  is disconnected. Then  $R_3$  consists of  $m$  copies of a complete graph on  $r$  vertices, for some constants  $m$  and  $r$ . We denote this graph by  $m \circ K_r$ . Then  $R_1$  is an orientation of the complement  $\overline{m \circ K_r}$ . The vertex set of  $\overline{m \circ K_r}$  is partitioned in  $m$  independent sets of size  $r$ , denoted by  $V_1, \dots, V_m$ .

In [14] we introduce the following family of graphs that do not necessarily satisfy all the conditions on a relation of a non-symmetric association scheme with three classes. We say that a directed graph is a doubly regular  $(m, r)$ -team tournament if it is an orientation of  $\overline{m \circ K_r}$  with adjacency matrix  $A$  satisfying equations (1) and (4).

In [14] we give a combinatorial proof of the following, i.e., we do not use eigenvalues.

**Theorem 9 (Jørgensen, Jones, Klin and Song [14])** *Every doubly regular  $(m, r)$ -team tournament is of one of the following types.*

1. *For every pair  $i, j$  either all the edges between  $V_i$  and  $V_j$  are directed from  $V_i$  to  $V_j$ , or they are all directed from  $V_j$  to  $V_i$ . The graph with vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  and edges  $v_i \rightarrow v_j$  if edges are directed from  $V_i$  to  $V_j$  is a doubly regular tournament.*

2. For every vertex  $x \in V_i$ , exactly half of the vertices in  $V_j$  ( $j \neq i$ ) are out-neighbours of  $x$ , and  $\alpha = \beta = \frac{(m-2)r}{4}$ , and  $\gamma = \frac{(m-1)r^2}{4(r-1)}$ .
3. For every pair  $\{i, j\}$  either  $V_i$  is partitioned in two sets  $V_i'$  and  $V_i''$  of size  $\frac{r}{2}$  so that all edges between  $V_i$  and  $V_j$  are directed from  $V_i'$  to  $V_j$  and from  $V_j$  to  $V_i''$ , or similarly with  $i$  and  $j$  interchanged. The parameters are  $\alpha = \frac{(m-1)r}{4} - \frac{3r}{8}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{(m-1)r}{4} + \frac{r}{8}$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{(m-1)r^2}{8(r-1)}$ .

A graph of type 3 can not be a relation of an association scheme. In this case 8 divides  $r$  and  $4(r-1)$  divides  $m-1$ . We do not know if any graph of this type exists.

Every graph of type 1 or type 2 is a relation of a non-symmetric association scheme with 3 classes. The results for these types were first proved by Goldbach and Claasen [9].

Clearly, the graph in case 1 exists if and only if a doubly regular tournament of order  $m$  exists.

## 2.1 Type 2

We now consider graphs of type 2. We first show that a graph of this type is a relation of a non-symmetric association scheme with 3 classes. This is done by proving that equations (2) and (3) are satisfied.

**Lemma 10** *Let  $A$  be the adjacency matrix of a doubly regular  $(m, r)$ -team tournament of type 2. Then  $A$  satisfies equations (2) and (3) with*

- $\lambda = \alpha = \frac{(m-2)r}{4}$  and
- $\mu = \frac{(m-1)r(r-2)}{4(r-1)}$ .

*In particular if  $m = r$  then  $\lambda = \mu = \frac{m(m-2)}{4}$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $x \in V_i$  and  $y \in V_j$ ,  $i \neq j$ , and suppose that  $x \rightarrow y$ . Then  $x$  has  $\kappa - \frac{r}{2}$  out-neighbours outside  $V_i \cup V_j$ .  $\alpha$  of these are in-neighbours of  $y$  and the remaining  $\kappa - \frac{r}{2} - \alpha$  are out-neighbours of  $y$ . Thus  $\lambda = \kappa - \frac{r}{2} - \alpha = \frac{(m-2)r}{4}$ , since  $\kappa = \frac{(m-1)r}{2}$ .

Similarly, for  $x, y \in V_i$ , we get  $\mu = \kappa - \gamma = \frac{(m-1)r(r-2)}{4(r-1)}$ . Thus equation (2) is satisfied. Equation (3) can be proved in a similar way, or by applying Lemma 1.  $\square$

Since the parameters of a graph of type 2 are integers, it follows that  $r$  is even and  $r - 1$  divides  $m - 1$ . Using eigenvalues, it can be shown that  $m$  is even, see [14] or Goldbach and Claasen [9].

Existence in the case  $r = 2$  is equivalent to existence of a doubly regular tournament of order  $m - 1$ .

**Theorem 11 ([14])** *If there exists a doubly regular  $(m, 2)$ -team tournament  $\Gamma$  of type 2 then 4 divides  $m$  and the out-neighbours of a vertex in  $\Gamma$  span a doubly regular tournament of order  $m - 1$ .*

*Conversely, for every doubly regular tournament  $T$  of order  $m - 1$ , there exists a doubly regular  $(m, 2)$ -team tournament  $\Gamma$ , such that for some vertex  $x$  in  $\Gamma$  the out-neighbours of  $x$  span a subgraph isomorphic to  $T$ .*

No schemes with  $4 \leq r < m$ , where  $r - 1$  divides  $m - 1$  are known.

We will now consider the case  $m = r$ . We will see that such association schemes are equivalent to special cases of some well-known structures.

**Definition 2** *An Hadamard matrix  $H$  of order  $n$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix in which every entry is either 1 or  $-1$  and  $HH^t = nI$ .*

*An Hadamard matrix  $H$  of order  $m^2$  is said to be Bush-type if  $H$  is a block matrix with  $m \times m$  blocks  $H_{ij}$  of size  $m \times m$  such that  $H_{ii} = J_m$  and  $H_{ij}J_m = J_mH_{ij} = 0$ , for  $i \neq j$ .*

**Theorem 12** *An imprimitive association scheme with 3 classes of type 2 and with  $r = m$  is equivalent to a Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order  $m^2$  with the property that  $H_{ij} = -H_{ji}$ , for all pairs  $i, j$  with  $i \neq j$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be an adjacency matrix of relation  $R_1$ , for some imprimitive association scheme with 3 classes of type 2 and with  $r = m$ . We may assume that vertices are enumerated such that the vertices in  $V_i$  corresponds to columns/rows  $mi - i + 1, \dots, mi$ . Let  $H = J_{m^2} - 2A$ . Then  $H$  is partitioned in blocks  $H_{ij}$  of size  $m \times m$  corresponding to the partition of vertices in sets  $V_1, \dots, V_m$ . Clearly  $H_{ii} = J_m$  and since a vertex in  $V_i$  has exactly  $\frac{m}{2}$  out-neighbours and  $\frac{m}{2}$  in-neighbours in  $V_j$ ,  $H_{ij}J_m = J_mH_{ij} = 0$ .

From equations (1) and (2) we get (since  $\kappa = \frac{m(m-1)}{2}$  and  $\mu = \lambda = \frac{m(m-2)}{4}$ )

$$HH^t = (J_{m^2} - 2A)(J_{m^2} - 2A^t) = (m^2 - 4\kappa)J_{m^2} + 4(\kappa I + \mu(J - I)) = m^2I.$$

Thus  $H$  is an Hadamard matrix.

Conversely, suppose that  $H$  is a Bush-type Hadamard matrix which is skew in the sense that  $H_{ij} = -H_{ji}$ , for  $i \neq j$ .

Let  $A = \frac{1}{2}(J - H)$ , where  $J = J_{m^2}$ . Then  $A$  is a  $\{0, 1\}$  matrix. Since  $H$  is Bush-type it has exactly  $m + (m-1)\frac{m}{2}$  entries equal to 1 and  $(m-1)\frac{m}{2}$  entries equal to  $-1$  in each row. Thus  $HJ = mJ$  and the transposed equation is  $JH^t = mJ$ . Similarly  $JH = mJ$ . Thus  $AJ = JA = \frac{m(m-1)}{2}J$  and

$$AA^t = \frac{1}{4}(J - H)(J - H^t) = \frac{m(m-2)}{4}J + \frac{m^2}{4}I.$$

We see that equations (1) and (2) are satisfied. Equation (3) can be proved in a similar way, or by applying Lemma 1.

Let  $K$  denote the block diagonal matrix with diagonal blocks equal to  $J_m$ . Then the Bush-type property of  $H$  implies that  $HK = mK$  and the skew property of  $H$  implies that  $H + H^t = 2K$ . Thus  $H^2 = H(2K - H^t) = 2mK - m^2I$ , and so

$$A^2 = \frac{1}{4}(J - H)^2 = \frac{1}{4}(m(m-2)J + 2mK - m^2I).$$

Since  $J - I - A - A^t = K - I$ , it follows that equation (4) is satisfied with  $\alpha = \beta = \frac{m(m-2)}{4}$  and  $\gamma = \frac{m^2}{4}$ .  $\square$

Kharaghani [15] proved that if there exists an Hadamard matrix of order  $m$  then there exists a Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order  $m^2$ .

Ionin and Kharaghani [11] modified this construction and proved that if there exists an Hadamard matrix of order  $m$  then there exists a Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order  $m^2$ , which has the skew property required in Theorem 12.

Thus in many cases with  $m = r$  a multiple of 4, an association scheme can be constructed.

The case with  $m = r$  congruent to 2 modulo 4 seems to be more difficult and no general constructions are known. But in the special case  $m = r = 6$  we may apply the computer search algorithm described in the proof of Theorem 8. However, it is estimated that a complete search would take several years. We stopped the search after a few days. At that time two association schemes were found.

**Theorem 13** *There exists an imprimitive non-symmetric association scheme with 3 classes of type 2 with  $m = r = 6$ .*

**Proof.** The adjacency matrix of  $R_1$  is listed below for one such scheme.  $\square$

A Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order 36 was first constructed Janko [12]. But a “skew” Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order 36 was not previously known. Bussemaker, Haemers and Spence [4] proved that a symmetric Bush-type Hadamard matrix of order 36 does not exist.

000000	111000	111000	111000	111000	111000
000000	110100	100110	100110	110100	000111
000000	100011	100101	010101	001110	110100
000000	011010	010011	100011	000111	101010
000000	000111	011010	001011	101001	010101
000000	001101	001101	011100	010011	001011
000111	000000	110100	010011	101010	001011
001011	000000	100011	011010	010101	011100
011010	000000	011001	100101	011100	010011
101100	000000	001101	100110	101001	101100
110001	000000	011010	011100	100110	100110
110100	000000	100110	101001	010011	110001
000111	001110	000000	110100	100101	110001
011001	010101	000000	000111	110010	111000
011100	110001	000000	011010	001101	100011
100110	011010	000000	001110	011010	010110
101001	101100	000000	101001	001110	001101
110010	100011	000000	110001	110001	001110
001011	110010	011100	000000	010011	100101
010110	001101	010110	000000	011100	101100
011100	101100	110001	000000	100011	010110
100110	110001	001011	000000	100110	011001
101001	001011	100011	000000	111000	100011
110001	010110	101100	000000	001101	011010
001101	011001	001110	110001	000000	010110
001110	100110	101010	001101	000000	101010
010101	010011	110001	101100	000000	001101
100011	100101	010101	101010	000000	110010
110010	011100	101001	010011	000000	100101
111000	101010	010110	010110	000000	011001
010011	111000	000111	001101	101001	000000
010101	100110	001011	110010	011010	000000
011010	001011	101100	101010	100110	000000
100101	101001	111000	000111	010101	000000
101010	010101	110010	110100	001011	000000
101100	010110	010101	011001	110100	000000

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