

Constructions and Packings of Bull-Design

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Abstract

A bull-design of order n is a decomposition of the complete graph K_n into bulls. Such systems exist precisely when $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$. The necessary conditions of the existence of bull-designs of λK_n are the follows: $\lambda \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$, or $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and for all n . In this paper we showed the necessary conditions are also sufficient, and gave the minimum leave of the packing of the complete graph K_n .

Keywords: Decompositions, bull-designs, Packings

1 Introduction

A bull is a graph which is obtained by attaching two edges to two vertices of a triangle. In what follows we will denote the following bull by $(a, b, c; d, e)$ or $(a, c, b; e, d)$ (See Figure 1). A bull-design of order n , or bull-decomposition of order n , is a pair (X, \mathcal{A}) , where X is the vertex set of the complete graph K_n and \mathcal{A} is an edge-disjoint decomposition of K_n into copies of bulls. Following

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design terminology, we call these copies as blocks. Such designs exist precisely when $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$ [3]. One can even find that such designs are 2-colorable [3]. Similarly, a bull-decomposition of a graph G is a partition of edges of G into copies of bull.

Recently, some papers investigated the graph-decomposition for the special blocks. J. C. Bermond and J. Schonheim [1] considered this problem for the blocks with four vertices or less; E. J. Billington and D. L. Kreher [2], consider the intersection of G -designs; S. El-Zanati and C. A. Rodger [3] considered the blocking set of G -design for special blocks; C. M. Fu and W. C. Huang [4] considered the intersection for kite-designs.

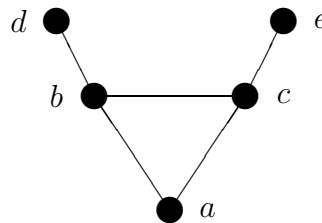


Figure 1. Bull $(a, b, c; d, e)$

A packing of the graph G with bulls (or a packing of G for brevity) is a set M of edge-disjoint bulls in G ; the leave L of the packing M is the set of edges of G not belonging to any bulls in M . When the cardinality of the bull set M is as large as possible (or $|L|$ is as small as possible), the packing is called the maximum packing of G and the corresponding leave is called the minimum leave, denoted by $L(G)$. In the section 3, we will give the minimum leave of the packing of the complete graph K_n .

How about the bull-decomposition of the graph λK_n ? The necessary conditions of the existence of such decompositions are the follows: $\lambda \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$, or $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and for all n . We will use the minimum leave to construct the bull-decomposition of the graph λK_n in section 4.

2 Some small examples of bull-design

Now, we will give some small examples of bull-design for the general constructions in the section 3.

Example 2.1 *The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{5,5,5}$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(6, 1, 11; 9, 3), (12, 1, 7; 14, 11), (1, 8, 13; 2, 4), (6, 4, 14; 8, 2), (5, 8,$*

12; 14, 6), (13, 2, 7; 6, 14), (9, 2, 15; 12, 6), (2, 10, 11; 1, 5), (7, 4, 15; 10, 1), (13, 5, 9; 7, 11), (13, 3, 6; 7, 5), (15, 3, 8; 14, 11), (12, 3, 10; 9, 15), (12, 4, 9; 11, 14), (14, 5, 10; 15, 13)} and the partite sets of the graph $K_{5,5,5}$ are the set $\{\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}, \{11, 12, 13, 14, 15\}\}$. \diamond

Example 2.2 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_7 \setminus K_2$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(2, 5, 6; 4, 1), (3, 6, 7; 4, 5), (5, 1, 3; 7, 4), (7, 2, 4; 3, 1)\}$. \diamond

Example 2.3 Let $\mathcal{A}_1 = \{(3, 6, 7; 4, 5), (5, 2, 8; 6, 3), (2, 4, 7; 8, 1), (3, 4, 5; 1, 6), (6, 1, 8; 5, 7)\}$, $\mathcal{A}_2 = \{(3, 6, 7; 2, 8), (5, 1, 3; 7, 8), (8, 4, 5; 1, 7), (1, 6, 8; 5, 2), (7, 2, 4; 5, 6)\}$, $\mathcal{A}_3 = \{(1, 5, 6; 2, 8), (8, 3, 4; 6, 5), (4, 2, 6; 3, 7), (3, 5, 7; 8, 2), (1, 7, 8; 4, 2)\}$, $\mathcal{A}_4 = \{(5, 6, 1; 3, 8), (4, 3, 8; 5, 7), (2, 6, 7; 4, 3), (4, 1, 7; 3, 5), (5, 2, 8; 4, 6)\}$ and $\mathcal{A}_5 = \{(7, 2, 6; 4, 8), (7, 4, 1; 8, 5), (8, 5, 2; 4, 3), (1, 3, 6; 5, 4), (3, 7, 8; 5, 1)\}$. Then, \mathcal{A}_i is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_8 \setminus G_i$, where $E(G_1) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}\}$, $E(G_2) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{3, 4\}\}$, $E(G_3) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}\}$, $E(G_4) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}\}$ and $E(G_5) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4\}, \{5, 6\}\}$. \diamond

Example 2.4 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_9 \setminus K_4$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 5, 6; 3, 4), (1, 7, 9; 5, 6), (2, 6, 7; 3, 4), (4, 8, 9; 6, 5), (7, 3, 8; 9, 1), (8, 2, 5; 9, 4)\}$. Now, \mathcal{A}' comes from \mathcal{A} with $(2, 6, 7; 3, 4) \cup \{\{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}\}$ replaced by $\{(1, 3, 4; 6, 2), (6, 2, 7; 3, 4)\}$. Then, \mathcal{A}' is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_9 \setminus K_2$. \diamond

Example 2.5 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{12} \setminus K_2$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(2, 3, 6; 4, 9), (3, 7, 9; 6, 10), (2, 8, 10; 7, 11), (4, 8, 11; 6, 9), (5, 8, 12; 9, 1), (1, 5, 10; 6, 12), (8, 3, 1; 5, 11), (4, 9, 12; 5, 2), (2, 7, 11; 5, 6), (4, 7, 10; 1, 6), (4, 6, 1; 12, 9), (4, 5, 2; 11, 9), (11, 3, 12; 10, 7)\}$. \diamond

Example 2.6 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus K_8$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 9, 10; 6, 7), (1, 11, 12; 8, 7), (2, 10, 11; 8, 5), (13, 2, 12; 9, 5), (11, 3, 9; 13, 7), (3, 10, 12; 6, 8), (10, 4, 13; 11, 1), (4, 9, 12; 8, 6), (9, 5, 13; 10, 7), (6, 11, 13; 7, 8)\}$. A bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus G$ can be obtained by embedding a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_8 \setminus G$ to a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus K_8$, where G is any subgraph of K_{13} with three edges. \diamond

Example 2.7 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{14} \setminus K_4$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 14, 5; 2, 13), (7, 9, 1; 5, 6), (1, 10, 12; 5, 2), (5, 12, 8; 13, 9), (9, 3, 11; 12, 1), (10, 2, 8; 5, 1), (14, 8, 13; 6, 1), (9, 2, 13; 11, 10), (13, 3, 6; 8, 10),$

$(7, 5, 11; 3, 12), (9, 4, 10; 12, 11), (7, 14, 3; 11, 10), (2, 6, 7; 5, 10), (12, 9, 14; 6, 10), (14, 4, 6; 5, 12), (4, 8, 11; 7, 6), (4, 7, 13; 12, 11)\}$. Now, \mathcal{A}' comes from \mathcal{A} with $(9, 4, 10; 12, 11) \cup \{\{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}\}$ replaced by $\{(9, 4, 10; 2, 11), (1, 3, 4; 2, 12)\}$. Then, \mathcal{A}' is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{14} \setminus K_2$. \diamond

Example 2.8 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{22} \setminus K_{12}$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 13, 14; 4, 12), (1, 15, 16; 5, 6), (1, 17, 18; 11, 12), (1, 19, 20; 3, 4), (1, 21, 22; 4, 5), (2, 14, 15; 11, 12), (2, 16, 17; 5, 6), (2, 18, 19; 11, 12), (2, 20, 21; 12, 11), (3, 13, 15; 2, 22), (16, 3, 14; 22, 6), (15, 4, 17; 22, 12), (18, 4, 16; 19, 11), (17, 5, 19; 14, 22), (5, 18, 20; 6, 7), (19, 6, 21; 13, 3), (6, 20, 22; 14, 2), (17, 7, 14; 21, 4), (7, 15, 18; 6, 22), (16, 8, 19; 13, 7), (20, 8, 17; 14, 21), (18, 8, 21; 15, 12), (17, 9, 13; 21, 11), (18, 9, 14; 22, 21), (9, 15, 19; 11, 13), (9, 16, 20; 12, 11), (10, 13, 18; 20, 3), (10, 14, 19; 22, 11), (10, 15, 20; 21, 3), (10, 16, 21; 22, 5), (10, 17, 22; 3, 8), (12, 13, 22; 5, 11), (16, 7, 13; 22, 21)\}$. A bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{22} \setminus K_2$ can be obtained by embedding a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{12} \setminus K_2$ to a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{22} \setminus K_{12}$. \diamond

Example 2.9 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{23} \setminus K_{13}$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 14, 15; 11, 12), (1, 16, 17; 12, 23), (1, 18, 19; 11, 12), (1, 20, 21; 12, 13), (1, 22, 23; 12, 13), (2, 15, 16; 11, 23), (2, 17, 18; 11, 13), (2, 19, 20; 13, 14), (2, 21, 22; 14, 15), (3, 14, 19; 5, 7), (3, 15, 20; 6, 7), (3, 16, 21; 5, 6), (3, 17, 22; 8, 6), (3, 18, 23; 12, 5), (2, 14, 23; 13, 7), (4, 21, 23; 11, 12), (4, 20, 22; 11, 9), (19, 5, 21; 22, 12), (18, 5, 20; 15, 6), (19, 6, 17; 23, 13), (18, 6, 16; 14, 13), (7, 15, 17; 8, 14), (16, 7, 14; 22, 12), (20, 8, 23; 14, 11), (8, 19, 22; 11, 13), (18, 8, 21; 16, 15), (20, 9, 17; 14, 5), (19, 9, 16; 23, 11), (18, 9, 15; 21, 10), (19, 10, 23; 14, 15), (10, 18, 22; 7, 11), (10, 17, 21; 12, 7), (10, 16, 20; 22, 13), (19, 4, 15; 17, 13), (18, 4, 14; 16, 22)\}$. A bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{23} \setminus G$ can be obtained by embedding a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus G$ to a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{23} \setminus K_{13}$, where G is any subgraph of K_{13} with three edges. \diamond

Example 2.10 The set \mathcal{A} is a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{24} \setminus K_{14}$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{(1, 15, 16; 2, 4), (1, 17, 18; 6, 8), (1, 19, 20; 9, 10), (1, 21, 22; 11, 12), (1, 23, 24; 13, 14), (2, 16, 17; 8, 9), (2, 18, 19; 10, 11), (2, 20, 21; 12, 13), (2, 22, 23; 14, 15), (3, 15, 17; 14, 13), (3, 16, 18; 13, 11), (3, 19, 21; 10, 8), (3, 20, 22; 11, 9), (4, 17, 19; 14, 12), (4, 18, 20; 14, 9), (4, 21, 23; 10, 5), (4, 22, 24; 11,$

16), (5, 16, 19; 12, 14), (5, 15, 18; 12, 13), (5, 17, 20; 24, 14), (21, 5, 24; 22, 9), (21, 6, 18; 15, 9), (6, 19, 22; 13, 8), (20, 6, 23; 16, 10), (19, 7, 15; 24, 4), (20, 7, 16; 23, 11), (7, 17, 21; 8, 12), (7, 18, 22; 23, 17), (8, 19, 23; 24, 3), (20, 8, 24; 15, 2), (21, 14, 16; 23, 9), (20, 13, 15; 24, 11), (18, 12, 24; 23, 6), (23, 11, 17; 24, 12), (10, 16, 22; 23, 13), (21, 9, 15; 23, 22), (15, 10, 24; 17, 3)}. *A bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{24} \setminus K_4$ ($K_{24} \setminus K_2$) can be obtained by embedding a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{14} \setminus K_4$ ($K_{14} \setminus K_2$) to a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{24} \setminus K_{14}$. \diamond*

3 Packing of bull-design

Since a bull-decomposition of order n exists for $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$ [3], the minimum leaves are the empty set. For the others, we need some constructions.

Take $2n \geq 6$ and $X = \{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$. Let \mathcal{G} be a partition of X in sets of size 2 if $2n \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{6}$ and of size 2 and 4 with one set of size 4 if $2n \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$. The sets in \mathcal{G} are called holes. Let $(X, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ be a group divisible design (GDD) with groups \mathcal{G} and blocks \mathcal{B} of size 3 (see [5]).

$(10n + 2)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2\} \cup (X \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. If \mathcal{G} contains a hole g of size 4, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{22} \setminus K_2$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
2. For each hole g of size 2, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{12} \setminus K_2$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
3. For each block $\{a, b, c\}$ of the GDD, take a bull-decomposition of $K_{5,5,5}$ on $\{(a, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(b, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(c, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

$(10n + 3)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (X \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. If \mathcal{G} contains a hole g of size 4, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{23} \setminus K_3$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
2. Take a hole g' of size 2 and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus G$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (g' \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} , where the graph G can be taken the spanning subgraph of K_{13} with 3 edges as in examples 2.10 - 2.14.
3. For each hole g of size 2, $g \neq g'$, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{13} \setminus K_3$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
4. For each block $\{a, b, c\}$ of the GDD, take a bull-decomposition of $K_{5,5,5}$ on $\{(a, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(b, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(c, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

$(10n + 4)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (X \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. If \mathcal{G} contains a hole g of size 4, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{24} \setminus K_4$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
2. Take a hole g' of size 2 and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{14} \setminus K_2$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (g' \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
3. For each hole g of size 2, $g \neq g'$, take a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_{14} \setminus K_4$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (g \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
4. For each block $\{a, b, c\}$ of the GDD, take a bull-decomposition of $K_{5,5,5}$ on $\{(a, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(b, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\} \cup \{(c, j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq 5\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

Take $n \geq 1$ and $Y = \{1, 2, \dots, 2n + 1\}$. Let (Y, \bullet) be an idempotent commutative quasigroup of order $2n + 1$ [5].

$(10n + 7)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2\} \cup (Y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. Take each point $y \in Y$ and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_7 \setminus K_2$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2\} \cup (y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
2. For each $a, b \in Y$, $1 \leq a < b \leq 2n + 1$, take bulls $\{((a \bullet b, 2), (a, 1), (b, 1); (b, 4), (a, 4)) + (0, i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq 4\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

$(10n + 8)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (Y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. Take one point $y' \in Y$ and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_8 \setminus G$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (y' \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} , where where the graph G can be taken the spanning subgraph of K_8 with 3 edges as in examples 2.3 - 2.7.
2. Take each point $y \in Y$, $y \neq y'$, and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_8 \setminus K_3$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\} \cup (y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
3. For each $a, b \in Y$, $1 \leq a < b \leq 2n + 1$, take bulls $\{((a \bullet b, 2), (a, 1), (b, 1); (b, 4), (a, 4)) + (0, i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq 4\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

$(10n + 9)$ -Construction

Let $V = \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (Y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and define a collection \mathcal{A} of bulls on V as follows:

1. Take one point $y' \in Y$ and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_9 \setminus K_2$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (y' \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
2. Take each point $y \in Y$, $y \neq y'$, and a bull-decomposition of the graph $K_9 \setminus K_4$ on $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3, \infty_4\} \cup (y \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\})$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .
3. For each $a, b \in Y$, $1 \leq a < b \leq 2n + 1$, take bulls $\{((a \bullet b, 2), (a, 1), (b, 1); (b, 4), (a, 4)) + (0, i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq 4\}$ and put these bulls in \mathcal{A} .

From the above constructions and small examples in section 2, we can obtain the maximum packing $L(K_n)$ of bull-design. (see Figure 2)

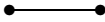
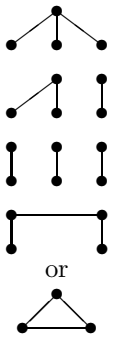
n	$n \equiv 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{5}$	$n \equiv 2 \text{ or } 4 \pmod{5}$	$n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$
$L(K_n)$	\emptyset		

Figure 2: Leaves of maximum packing.

4 Construction of the bull-design of λK_n

Now, we will give the bull-decomposition of the graph λK_n by the minimum leave in section 3. The necessary conditions of the existence of such decompositions are the follows: $\lambda \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$, or $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and for all n . Since a bull-decomposition of order n exists for $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$ [3], the existence results for the bull-decomposition of λK_n are just to show the existence for $n \not\equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$ and $\lambda = 5$.

For $n = 10k + 2, 10k + 4, 10k + 7$ or $10k + 9$, the minimum leave of the packing of K_n with bulls is one edge. Combining the 5 edges, we obtain a bull-decomposition of the graph $5K_n$. For $n = 10k + 3$ or $10k + 8$, we take the minimum leave of the packing of K_n with bulls by the vertex-disjoint three edges. Combining the five leaves of this type, we obtain a bull-decomposition of the graph $5K_n$. From those methods, we obtain the following Main Theorem.
Main Theorem An bull-designs of λK_n exists if and only if $\lambda \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$, or $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and for all n .

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