Concerning 3-factorizations of $3K_{n,n}$

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ABSTRACT

Standard doubling and tripling constructions for block designs with block size three (triple systems) employ factorizations of complete graphs and of complete bipartite graphs. In these constructions, repeated edges in a factor lead to repeated blocks in the design. Hence the construction of triple systems with a prescribed number of repeated blocks is facilitated by determining the possible structure of repeated edges in the factors of a λ -factorization of λK_n and $\lambda K_{n,n}$. For $\lambda=3$, a complete determination of the possible combinations of numbers of doubly and triply repeated edges in 3-factorizations of λK_n has been completed for $n\geq 12$. In this paper, we solve the analogous problem for the complete bipartite graphs in the case $\lambda=3$. The case $\lambda=1$ is trivial, and the case $\lambda=2$ has been previously solved by Fu.

1. The Background

Let G = (V, E) be a multigraph. A λ -factor of G is a λ -regular spanning submultigraph of G, and a λ -factorization is a partition of the edges into λ -factors. When G has multiple edges, the λ -factors may also contain multiple edges. We are interested in classifying certain factorizations according to the number of repeated edges of each multiplicity. Our particular interest is in 3-factorizations, and hence we define the type of such a factorization to be the pair (t,s), where t is the total number of doubly repeated edges in factors, and |E|/3-s is the total number of triply repeated edges.

Given a simple graph G, the multigraph λG is obtained by repeating each edge of G λ times. In a previous paper, we determined the possible types of 3-factorizations of $3K_{2n}$ for all n, leaving some possible exceptions for n=4 and 5. In this paper, we consider the analogous problem for $3K_{n,n}$.

Before stating the main result, it is important to address the motivation for this research. Our main motivation arises in the construction of triple systems, i.e. balanced incomplete block designs with block size three. In the standard $v \rightarrow 2v+1$ construction for triple systems with index λ , a primary ingredient is a λ -factorization of λK_{v+1} . Repeated edges in the factorization lead to repeated blocks in the triple system. Hence a characterization of types of repeated edges assists in the determination of types of repeated blocks.

The 2v+1 construction alone is not sufficient, and is typically supplemented by a

 $v \rightarrow 2v + 7$ construction (see, for example, [3]). In this case, however, the factorization employed is of some subgraph of λK_{v+7} . A particularly useful 2v + 7 construction employs, as a portion of the required λ -factorization, a λ -factorization of $\lambda K_{\frac{1}{2}(v+7),\frac{1}{2}(v+7)}$. In this context, the possible types of repeated edges are of some interest; hence we address the smallest open case, $\lambda = 3$. The case $\lambda = 2$ has been settled by Fu [2], and the analogous problem for twofold triple systems settled by Rosa and Hoffman [4]. The determination of the types of threefold triple systems is the subject of a paper under preparation by Mathon, Rosa, Shalaby and the present author.

Let G be a regular bipartite graph on 2n vertices. We let $\mathcal{Y}(G)$ denote the set of types of 3-factorizations of 3G. Then $\mathcal{Y}(n,d)$ denotes the union of $\mathcal{Y}(G)$ over all d-regular bipartite graphs G on 2n vertices. In this terminology, our goal is to determine $\mathcal{Y}(n,n)$.

Our task breaks naturally into two parts. First, we must determine necessary conditions for a pair (t,s) to be in $\mathcal{Y}(n,d)$. Second, we must provide constructions for factorizations of all types which can be realized. It will become apparent that both problems are complicated by a very large number of cases. Hence we will in general just present the method by which the factorizations are obtained, and avoid an explicit presentation of the thousands of factorizations that are needed.

Now we can state the main theorem of [1], followed by the main theorem of this paper.

Let $A(n,d) = \{(t,s): 0 \le t \le s \le nd\} \setminus \{(0,1), (0,2), (0,3), (0,4), (0,5), (0,7), (0,8), (1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6), (1,7), (1,8), (1,9), (1,10), (1,11), (2,2), (2,3), (2,4), (2,5), (2,6), (2,7), (2,8), (2,9), (2,10), (3,3), (3,4), (3,5), (3,6), (3,7), (3,8), (3,10), (4,5), (4,7), (4,8), (5,5), (5,6), (5,7), (5,8), (5,9), (5,10)\}.$

Theorem A [1]: For $n \ge 6$, there is a 3-factorization of $3K_{2n}$ of type (t,s) if and only if $(t,s) \in A(n,2n-1)$. \square

In order to state the theorem for $3K_{n,n}$, we define $\mathcal{B}(n,d)=\mathcal{A}(n,d)\setminus\{(0,6),(0,10),\ (0,11),\ (0,13),\ (1,12),\ (1,13),\ (1,14),\ (1,17),\ (2,11),\ (2,12),\ (2,13),\ (3,9),\ (3,11),\ (3,13),\ (4,6),\ (4,10),\ (4,11),\ (5,11),\ (5,12),\ (5,13),\ (6,10),\ (7,10),\ (7,11)\}.$ Then we have

Main Theorem: For $n \ge 10$, y(n,n) = B(n,n).

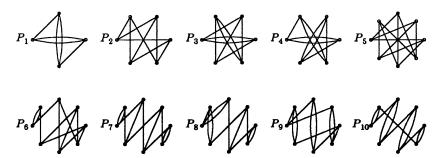
In section 2, we establish the necessary conditions. Then in section 3, we recall the main recursive constructions used in establishing sufficiency from [1]. We develop additional constructions for the bipartite case as well. Subsequent sections then outline the construction of the small examples required in the recursions.

2. Necessary Conditions

We follow the same strategy as [1] in determining the necessary conditions. Suppose that a 3-factorization \mathcal{F} of $3K_{n,n}$ of type (t,s) exists. Let $R(\mathcal{F})$ be the graph whose edges are those edges not appearing in three-times repeated edges in a factor of \mathcal{F} ; we call this the remainder of \mathcal{F} . Each factor of \mathcal{F} induces a cubic submultigraph of $R(\mathcal{F})$ having no three-times repeated edges; these submultigraphs are termed portions. In [1], it is observed that if a vertex of $R(\mathcal{F})$ has degree d, it belongs to precisely d of the portions. Hence the minimum degree in $R(\mathcal{F})$ is at least two. Moreover, the number of two-times repeated edges must be at least as large as the number of edges

in $R(\mathcal{F})$ incident with a vertex of degree two. We make a further observation along these lines: if a two-times repeated edge of a factor is incident with a vertex of degree three in $R(\mathcal{F})$, at least two doubly repeated edges in factors are incident with this vertex. From this, it is easy to deduce that if $R(\mathcal{F})$ has maximum degree 3, $t \notin \{1,2,3,5\}$.

Our basic strategy is to consider candidates for $R(\mathcal{F})$, and to establish in the required cases that no suitable set of portions exist which partition 3G. We first determine all portions on fewer than ten vertices, depicted next:



In total, there are sixty-six pairs (t,s) which we must eliminate. However, forty-three of these are eliminated by observing that every 3-factorization of 3G can be completed to a 3-factorization of $3K_n$ of the same type, provided that n is large enough (this follows from standard embedding theorems for latin squares). Hence we need only treat the remaining twenty-three pairs.

Lemma 2.1: If $(t,s) \notin \mathcal{B}(n,n)$, there is no 3-factorization of $3K_{n,n}$ of type (t,s). Proof:

We consider the remaining values, by treating each value of s in turn. First, if s=6, $R(\mathcal{F})$ must be a bipartite graph with six edges, and minimum degree 2. But then the only candidates are C_6 and $K_{2,3}$; both have six edges incident with degree 2 vertices, and hence force t=6.

Now if s=9, we may have three portions of size 4 and one of size 6, or three portions of size 6. In the first case, we have $t\geq 6$ since each portion of size 4 contributes 2 doubly repeated edges. In the second case, two portions must be $K_{3,3}$ (= P_2), and hence $R(\mathcal{F})$ is $K_{3,3}$ since it has only nine edges. But then t=0 or $t\geq 4$.

If s=10, first observe that no portion is P_5 or P_6 since both require more than ten edges. Moreover, since the unique ten-edge graph containing $K_{3,3}$ has a degree 1 vertex, no portion is P_1 . Now consider the possible portion sizes; they are $\{8,6,6\}$, $\{8,4,4,4\}$, $\{6,6,4,4\}$ and $\{4,4,4,4,4\}$. The last two require $t\geq 8$ since each possible portion has at least two double edges. Similarly, $\{8,4,4,4\}$ requires $t\geq 8$ since the portion of size 8 has at least two double edges. This leaves only $\{8,6,6\}$. Now consider the degrees in a class of the bipartition of $R(\mathcal{F})$. They must be $\{4,2,2,2\}$, $\{3,3,2,2\}$ or $\{2,2,2,2,2\}$. The last requires $t\geq 10$, and the first forces the presence of at least 8 edges incident with degree 2 vertices, and hence $t\geq 8$. Three nonisomorphic candidates for $R(\mathcal{F})$ remain. One contains eight edges incident with degree 2 vertices, forcing $t\geq 8$. A second contains an induced path on four vertices whose interior vertices have degree 2. Replacing the three edges by a single edge, and deleting the interior vertex, yields

in the obvious way a factorization of a graph on 8 edges having two fewer double edges. But this requires $t \ge 10$. The final candidate has six edges incident with degree 2 vertices, and hence $t \ge 6$; moreover, t can be less than eight only if at most one edge not incident with a degree 2 vertex appears as a double edge. One can verify that this cannot be achieved in this last candidate, which we display here:



If s=11, first suppose that there is a portion isomorphic to P_2 . Then $R(\mathcal{F})$ is



and the portion sizes are $\{6,6,6,4\}$ if $t \le 7$. If the degree 2 vertex is in the portion of size 4, let F_1 and F_2 be the portions not incident with the vertex of degree 2. Then $\{F_1,F_2,3K_{3,3}-F_1-F_2\}$ forms a 3-factorization of type (t-2,s-2) with $t-2\ge 1$, and hence t=6 or $t\ge 8$. On the other hand, if the degree 2 vertex is not in the portion of size 4, $t\ge 6$ is immediate; exhaustive checking eliminates t=7.

If no portion of P_2 is present, a portion of P_6 must be present, with portion sizes $\{8,6,4,4\}$. Since $s=11,\,R(\mathcal{F})$ is



and hence if $t \le 7$, the portion of size 6 is P_3 . Now whenever $R(\mathcal{F})$ contains an induced path of length 3, we can replace this path by a single edge, making the obvious modifications to two of the factors, to obtain a 3-factorization of type (t-3,s-3) with $t-3\ge 1$. Hence $t\ge 9$ in this case.

If s=12, the possible portion sizes are $\{8,8,8\}$, $\{8,8,4,4\}$, $\{8,6,6,4\}$ and $\{6,6,6,6\}$ for $t \le 5$. If some portion is P_5 , $R(\mathcal{F})$ is P_5 (the 3-cube). The remaining factors partition $2P_5$, and hence by Fu's theorem [2], $t \notin \{1,2,3,5\}$. This eliminates $\{8,8,4,4\}$. If some portion is P_6 , $R(\mathcal{F})$ is



whence $t \ge 3$ is immediate. Moreover, since this graph has minimum degree 2, $\{8,8,8\}$ is eliminated since all portions would have at least two doubly repeated edges. However, we must still consider $\{8,6,6,4\}$. If the degree two vertices appear in a portion of size 6,

that portion must be P_4 (since a portion P_6 must remain). This leads to $t \ge 6$. Otherwise the degree 2 vertices appear in the portion of size 4. By eliminating the portion of size 4, and modifying the portion of size 8, we obtain a 3-factorization of type (t-3,s-3) and hence $t \ne 5$. Moreover, if any of portions P_7-P_{10} is present, so must portion P_2 , and hence the graph is as depicted above. This eliminates $\{8,6,6,4\}$.

What remains for s=12 is the set $\{6,6,6,6\}$ of portion sizes. Now $t \neq 1$, as no portion of size 6 has exactly one doubly repeated edge. The unique candidate for $R(\mathcal{F})$ is $K_{3,4}$, and it is an easy exercise to check that $t \notin \{1,2,3,5\}$ here.

Next we turn to s=13. If there is a component of size 10, $R(\mathcal{F})$ either has maximum degree 3 (whence $t \notin \{1,2,3,5\}$) or it has at least five vertices of degree 2. In the latter case, at least six edges are incident with such vertices and hence $t \geq 6$. The remaining sets of portion sizes which are candidates for t < 6 are $\{8,8,6,4\}$ and $\{8,6,6,6\}$. If P_5 is a portion, $R(\mathcal{F})$ is



and hence neither P_2 nor P_6 are portions. This eliminates $\{8,8,6,4\}$, and also eliminates P_5 as a possible portion. Hence for $t \ge 5$, P_2 must be a portion. If P_6 is a portion, $R(\mathcal{F})$ is



and the portions must be $\{P_2, P_3, P_3, P_6\}$. However, after removing portions of P_2 and P_6 , no portion of P_3 remains. Hence P_6 is not a portion, and there are *two* portions of P_2 . These are necessarily on the same vertex set since s=13 (otherwise, $K_{3,4}$ is contained or more than 13 edges result). But then all remaining vertices have degree 2 and appear in both remaining portions. From this, $t \ge 4$ and $R(\mathcal{F})$ is



Once two portions of P_2 are taken, the remainder partitions into $\{P_3, P_7\}$ giving t = 4. Hence t = 4 or $t \ge 6$.

Next we consider s=14. We must establish that $t \neq 1$. If there is a portion of size 10, there are at least two edges incident with a degree 2 vertex. If there is a portion of size 4, $t \geq 2$ is immediate. Hence the portion sizes must be $\{8,8,6,6\}$, with portions $\{P_2,P_2,P_5,P_6\}$. However, the double edge of the P_6 is forced to be incident with a degree three vertex in $R(\mathcal{F})$, but then $t \geq 2$.

Finally, we consider s=17, and must prove that $t\neq 1$. There are no portions of size 12. If there were a portion of size 10 with one double edge, we would require $s\geq 18$ since both incident vertices require degree at least four. Hence t=1 implies that P_6 is a portion. Now if there is a portion of size 10 at all, either a degree two vertex is present or the double edge is incident to a degree 3 vertex; both are forbidden. Hence the portion sizes are $\{8,8,6,6,6\}$ and the portions are $\{P_2,P_2,P_2,P_5,P_6\}$, and $R(\mathcal{F})$ has nine vertices. The only possibility is $K_{4,5}$ minus three disjoint edges; here t=0 or $t\geq 4$. This completes the proof. \square

Naturally, this type of proof is better suited to computational verification than to hand calculations. We have verified by computer that all candidates for $R(\mathcal{F})$ were considered.

3. 3-latin rectangles and squares

In proving sufficiency in the Main Theorem, we develop a number of constructions for 3-factorizations. A useful device in these constructions is the use of an equivalent combinatorial structure. A 3-latin rectangle is a $d \times n$ array on symbols $\{1, \dots, n\}$, satisfying

- (1) each entry contains three (not necessarily distinct) symbols,
- (2) each symbol appears three times in each row, and
- (3) each symbol appears zero or three times in each column.

A 3-latin square of order n is an $n \times n$ 3-latin rectangle. Now let G be a d-regular subgraph of $K_{n,n}$ and let $\{F_1, \dots, F_d\}$ be a 3-factorization of 3G. Suppose that the bipartition of G is $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$. Form a 3-latin rectangle as follows: for each occurrence of edge $\{x_j, y_k\}$ in factor F_i , place symbol k in entry (i, j). This process is reversible to recover the 3-factorization. The type is easily obtained from the 3-latin square: s is just nd minus the number of entries of the form $\{x, x, x\}$, while t is the number of entries of the form $\{x, x, y\}$.

We give some examples here:

(0,9)	123 123 123	(4,9)	113 223 123	(6,6)	111 223 233
	123 123 123		223 113 123		233 111 223
	123 123 123		123 123 123		223 233 111
(6,8)	111 223 233	(6,9)	123 112 233	(7,8)	111 223 233
	223 113 123		233 123 112		223 123 113
	233 123 112		112 233 123		233 113 122
(7,9)	123 112 233	(9,9)	112 223 133	(0,0)	111 222 333
	122 133 123		133 112 223		333 111 222
	133 223 112		223 133 112		222 333 111

This effectively translates our problem into one concerning 3-latin squares, and hence suggests that standard techniques for constructing latin squares be employed here. In this vein, we observe that every latin rectangle can be completed to a latin square. A similar argument can be used here, to obtain what we call the basic construction.

Lemma 3.1: Let (t,s) be the type of a $d \times n$ 3-latin rectangle, and let x,y be integers satisfying $0 \le x \le y \le n-d$ and $(x,y) \ne (0,1)$, (0,2), (1,1), (1,2) or (1,3). Then (xn+t,yn+s) is the type of an $n \times n$ 3-latin square.

Proof:

Given a $d \times n$ 3-latin rectangle, form a bipartite graph whose two parts are the n columns and the n symbols. Join a symbol and a column if and only if that symbol does not appear in the specified column. Now form a 1-factorization $\{F_1, \dots, F_{n-d}\}$ of the bipartite graph. Take three copies of each 1-factor, to obtain 3n-3d 1-factors in total. Group these in threes, so that n-d-y groups contain three identical 1-factors, and x groups contain precisely two the same. For the *i*th resulting 3-factor, fill row d+i by placing for each column (vertex) the three symbols corresponding to the symbol vertices adjacent to it. The only issue is to accomplish the grouping appropriately, and it is easy to see that this can be done with the exceptions listed above (see [1]). \square

The next main tool is to combine small 3-latin rectangles to form larger ones. We first consider adding columns to 3-latin rectangles (since adding rows may be accomplished by the basic construction). Perhaps the simplest method is to simply "catenate" two rectangles:

Lemma 3.2: If (t,s) is the type of a $d \times n$ 3-latin rectangle and (t',s') is the type of a $d \times n'$ 3-latin rectangle, then (t+t',s+s') is the type of a $d \times (n+n')$ 3-latin rectangle.

Proof:

Write the first rectangle on symbols $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and the second on symbols $\{n+1, \dots, n+n'\}$; now simply concatenate the rows. \square

We can add fewer columns by "splicing" two rectangles together. Define the profile of a column to be the multiset of pairs $\{(r,e):$ symbol e appears in row r in the column, and the profile of a symbol to be the multiset of pairs $\{(r,c):$ the symbol appears in entry $\{(r,c)\}$ (multiple occurrences are included multiple times). The type of a profile is, as one would expect, the pair $\{b,a\}$ where b is the number of doubly repeated entries, and d-a is the number of triply repeated entries. Then we have

Lemma 3.3: Let \mathcal{L} be a $d \times n$ 3-latin rectangle of type (t,s), and let \mathcal{L}' be a $d \times n'$ 3-latin rectangle of type (t',s'). Suppose there is a column of \mathcal{L} and a symbol of \mathcal{L}' having the same profile, and that the type of this profile is (b,a). Then there is a $d \times (n+n'-1)$ 3-latin rectangle of type (t+t'-b,s+s'-a).

Proof:

We outline the strategy. Let c be the column of \mathcal{L} and e be the symbol of \mathcal{L}' having the same profile. Form \mathcal{L}' on symbols disjoint from those in \mathcal{L} and then catenate the two rectangles. Now strike out all occurrences of symbol s. The equality of the profiles guarantee that, if s is removed from a column of \mathcal{L}' , there is a symbol in column c appearing precisely in the rows which symbol s occupied. Hence for each such column vacated by symbol s, we can replace it by one of the symbols in column c. In the process, column c is emptied, and can then be removed. \square

Since there is a natural duality between columns and symbols in a 3-latin rectangle, the same 3-latin rectangle can be used to provide both rectangles used in Lemma 3.3; this is particularly useful if one wants to avoid cataloguing solutions by column profile.

An illustration of Lemma 3.3 may be helpful. Take the 3×3 3-latin rectangle of type (7,9) given earlier. The last column has profile type (2,3). Interchanging the roles of columns and symbols, we obtain the 3-latin square with rows 122 123 133, 123 113 223, 133 223 112. The profile of symbol 3 is the same as the original profile of column 3. Applying Lemma 3.3, we obtain

123 112 455 245 334 122 133 145 244 355 133 223 114 255 445

The type is (7+7-2,9+9-3) = (12,15) as expected.

Both Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 have the drawback that they add at least d-1 columns. It is possible, however, to add a single column. A near 3-transversal is a set c_1, \dots, c_{d-1} of distinct columns, and a set e_1, \dots, e_{d-1} of distinct symbols, so that e_i appears in column c_i , and for each row, the total number of occurrences of e_i in c_i , for $1 \le i < d$, is at most three. The type of the near 3-transversal is obtained as follows. Let x be the number of double occurrences of e_i in the same row of c_i , and let y be the number of triple occurrences. Now since only d-1 pairs have been chosen, the row sums add up to 3d-3, not to 3d. Three possibilities arise. If any row sum is zero, we add one to y. If any row sum is 1, we add 1 to x. Otherwise, three row sums are 2 and the rest are three; in this case, we leave x and y unchanged. Now the type is (x,d-y).

Lemma 3.4: Let \mathcal{L} be a $d \times n$ 3-latin rectangle of type (t,s) having a near 3-transversal of type (b,a). Then there is a $d \times (n+1)$ 3-latin rectangle of type (t+b,s+a).

Proof:

We append an n+1'st column; whenever symbol e_i appears in column c_i , it is moved to the new column (without changing its row), and is replaced by the symbol n+1. The last column then has up to three entries not fully occupied; the symbol n+1 is placed in each enough times so that each contains three symbols. \square

Again, an example may prove helpful. Consider again the 3-latin rectangle of type (7.9). A near 3-transversal $\{(c_i,e_i)\}$ is $\{(2.3),(3.1)\}$. Its type is (2.2). Applying Lemma 3.4, we obtain

123 112 233 444 122 144 234 133 133 224 244 113

which has type (9,11) as expected.

These tools enable us to construct a large number of small examples. Our strategy for settling sufficiency is to determine cases for d=3 and d=4. Applying Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 then determines the spectrum for y(n,4) for all $n \ge 12$. Using Lemma 3.1 to factorize the (n-4)-regular complement, we use this to determine y(n,n) for all $n \ge 16$. Finally, some ad hoc constructions are used to establish sufficiency for $10 \le n \le 15$.

4. The case d=3

In this section, we exhibit a number of small $3 \times n$ 3-latin rectangles. In the previous section, we gave nine examples; these are, in fact, all the cases for n=3. For

n=4, in addition to those produced by Lemma 3.1, we obtain the following.

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(4,4)	112 122 333 444	(6,7) 122 112 444 333	
	122 112 444 333	444 233 223 111	
	333 444 111 222	112 123 233 444	
(6,9)	111 234 224 334	(6,11) 111 224 334 234	
	222 334 114 134	223 114 134 234	
	333 224 124 114	233 124 114 234	
(6,12)	344 224 123 113	(7,7) 112 122 444 333	
	223 114 123 344	444 233 223 111	
	234 124 123 134	122 113 233 444	
(7,12)	234 112 334 124	(8,9) 111 223 244 334	
	224 133 134 124	334 111 224 234	
	334 223 114 124	344 233 111 224	
(8,10)	111 224 244 333	(8,11) 111 223 334 244	
	223 334 112 144	223 344 134 112	
	233 234 124 114	233 234 114 124	
(9,10)	111 223 233 444	(9,11) 111 344 233 224	
	344 234 113 122	224 134 113 234	
	334 344 122 112	244 113 122 334	
(9,12)	124 112 334 234	(10,10) 223 233 111 444	ŀ
	122 133 134 244	112 344 224 133	3
	144 223 114 233	133 224 244 113	3
(10,11)	111 223 244 334	(10,12) 134 112 233 24	4
•	344 123 114 223	144 133 234 12	2
	334 113 122 244	133 223 244 11	4

This large set of examples, together with those given earlier and those from Lemma 3.1, can now be extended to produce many values for larger n. Since every $3 \times n$ 3-latin rectangle can be extended to a $4 \times n$ 3-latin rectangle of the same type, we employ the resulting collection as a starting point for a solution for d=4.

5. The case d=4

We first exhibit 4×4 3-latin rectangles, completing in the process the precise determination of y(4,4). We omit those arising from 3×4 rectangles, and those from Lemma 3.1.

(0,15)	111 234 234 234	(1,15)	111 234 234 234
	234 123 124 124		234 123 124 134
	234 134 123 124		234 124 123 134
	234 124 134 123		234 134 134 122
(1,16)	123 234 134 124	(2,14)	123 124 134 234
	123 124 234 134		124 123 134 234
	144 123 123 234		124 123 134 234
	234 134 124 123		334 344 222 111
(2,15)	111 234 234 234	(2,16)	123 234 134 124
	234 123 234 114		124 123 244 133
	234 134 112 234		134 124 123 234
	234 124 134 123		234 134 123 124

(3,15)	111 234 234 234	(3,16)	223 134 134 124
	234 134 134 122		114 223 234 134
	234 124 124 133		134 124 123 234
	234 123 123 144		234 134 124 123
(4,14)	124 124 134 233	(4,15)	
	124 123 134 234	,	244 123 123 113
	123 123 134 244		234 134 112 234
	334 344 222 111		233 124 134 124
(5,14)	122 124 134 334	(5,15)	
• • •	124 123 134 234	(,,,	234 123 234 114
	134 123 134 224		233 144 112 234
	334 344 222 111		244 123 134 123
(5,16)	123 234 134 124	(6,14)	
• • •	124 123 244 133	(,,,	114 223 134 234
	123 124 123 344		124 123 134 234
	344 134 123 122		334 344 222 111
(6,15)		(6,16)	
	344 123 234 112	(, ,	124 123 244 133
	233 144 112 234		123 124 234 134
	224 123 134 134		344 134 123 122
(6,13)	111 234 234 234	(7,13)	
	222 111 344 334	, ,	222 113 444 133
	334 234 112 124		334 234 112 124
	344 234 123 112		344 124 123 123
(7,14)	124 124 134 233	(7,15)	
	234 112 134 234	, , ,	244 123 123 113
	112 233 134 244		234 134 112 234
	334 344 222 111		233 144 123 124
(7,16)	123 234 134 124	(8,13)	111 234 233 244
	124 233 244 113		222 113 444 133
	123 124 123 344		334 244 112 123
	344 114 123 223		344 123 123 124
(8,14)	114 224 134 233	(8,15)	111 234 223 344
	224 113 134 234	, , ,	234 123 234 114
	123 123 134 244		233 144 114 223
	334 344 222 111		244 123 134 123
(9,13)	111 234 233 244	(9,14)	124 122 134 334
	222 133 444 113	• • •	234 114 134 223
	334 244 112 123		112 233 134 244
	344 112 123 234		334 344 222 111
(9,15)	111 223 344 234	(9,16)	123 234 114 234
	244 123 123 113	. ,	124 233 244 113
	234 344 112 123		123 124 123 344
	233 114 123 244		344 114 233 122
(10,13)	111 234 233 244	(10,14)	
	222 113 444 133	ý	234 114 133 224
	334 234 122 114		112 233 144 234
	344 124 113 223		334 344 222 111

(10,15)	111 234 223 344 (10,16)	123 234 114 234
(10,13)	234 123 244 113	124 233 244 113
		233 124 123 144
	233 144 114 223	144 114 233 223
(11.10)	244 123 133 124	
(11,12)	111 344 233 224 (11,13)	222 113 444 133
	222 113 444 133	334 244 112 123
	334 223 111 244	
(11 14)	344 124 223 113	
(11,14)	123 122 134 344 (11,15)	244 133 234 112
	244 114 133 223	234 244 112 133
	112 233 144 234	
()	334 344 222 111	233 114 123 244
(11,16)	123 224 114 334 (12,13)	111 234 233 244
	124 233 244 113	222 144 113 334
	123 134 123 244	334 112 144 223
	344 114 233 122	344 233 224 111
(12,14)	134 222 114 334 (12,15)	
	222 334 144 113	234 113 244 123
	113 134 223 244	233 144 114 223
	344 114 233 122	244 223 133 114
(13,13)	111 222 334 344 (13,14)	
	222 114 344 133	223 334 112 144
	334 344 122 112	244 113 334 122
	344 133 112 224	334 144 122 123
(13,15)	111 223 344 234 (13,16)	
	344 133 224 112	224 133 244 113
	234 244 112 133	113 234 123 244
	223 114 133 244	344 114 233 122
(14,14)	111 223 334 244 (14,15)	111 334 223 244
	222 114 344 133	234 112 244 133
	334 144 112 223	233 144 114 223
	344 233 122 114	244 223 133 114
(14,16)	123 224 114 334 (15,15)	444 112 133 223
	224 233 144 113	133 344 224 112
	113 134 223 244	223 334 112 144
	344 114 233 122	112 122 344 334
	(15,16) 244 223 133 114	
	133 112 344 334	
	223 144 112 224	
	114 334 224 123	

This list is complete for n=4. For n=5, we do not attempt to produce an exhaustive list, but rather supply those examples which are most useful in the recursion. Two general methods are useful here. The first employs a construction of [1] directly, called Construction E in that paper. We restate the construction here, correcting in the process some errors in the original presentation:

Construction E: Let \mathcal{F} be a 3-factorization of type (t,s) of a r-regular subgraph of K_{2n} , and let ∞ be a vertex of \mathcal{F} incident with d doubly repeated and c triply repeated

edges. Then (2t-d,2s-r+c) is the type of a 3-factorization of an r-regular subgraph of $3K_{2n-1,2n-1}$. \square

Given the known solutions for 3-factorizations of $3K_6$ [1], we obtain by Construction E many 3-factorizations of subgraphs of $K_{5,5}$. In this way, we obtain that $\{(1,20),(2,20),(3,18),(3,20),(4,20)\}\subseteq y(5,4)$.

A second general method is to prescribe a large portion of the 3-latin rectangle, and examine all possible completions. Consider, for example, the following partial 5×4 3-latin rectangle:

555 123 4 5 5 5 123 4 5 5 5 123 4 5 5 5

Notice that the edges that remain form the edges of the 3-cube with each edge triplicated; any completion of the rectangle corresponds to a 3-factor and 3 2-factors of the triplicated 3-cube. Hence we can produce many different types by choosing the factors of the triplicated 3-cube appropriately. In this way, one can construct $\{(0,19),(1,19),(2,18),(3,19),(4,18),(4,19),(5,18),(5,19)\} \cup \mathcal{Y}(5,4)$.

Next we exhibit some ad hoc constructions.

```
(0,18)
        111 345 245 235 234
                               (2,17)
                                        235 145 145 234 123
        345 345 124 125 123
                                        245 135 145 234 123
        345 222 145 135 134
                                        245 135 145 234 123
        345 345 125 123 124
                                       334 344 222 111 555
(4,17)
       245 145 145 233 123
                               (5,17)
                                       122 245 145 335 123
        245 135 145 234 123
                                       124 235 145 235 123
        235 135 145 244 123
                                       134 235 145 225 123
       334 344 222 111 555
                                       334 344 222 111 555
```

For n=6, we can again employ the factorization of the triplicated 3-cube to complete the following partial 4×6 3-latin square:

111 222 234 156 1 1 2 2 234 156 1 1 2 2 234 156 1 1 2 2

We also employ an ad hoc example:

```
(1,23) 555 126 124 134 236 346
236 224 145 135 356 146
236 146 245 145 235 136
236 146 125 345 256 134
```

In the remaining examples, we exhibit only those entries which are not 3-times repeated; the completion of these to latin rectangles of suitable (larger) sizes is easy (and omitted).

Now we apply Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 to this large collection of 3-latin rectangles with d=4. We employed a computer program to determine the values for n, s and t for which a factorization of a 4-regular subgraph of $3K_{n,n}$ of type (t,s) results; this was carried out for all $n \le 15$. We found that for $12 \le n \le 15$, $\mathcal{Y}(n,4) = \mathcal{B}(n,4)$. For $n \le 11$, the lemmas fail to construct certain required types from the small rectangles given here. For n = 11, only type (1,31) is missed. For n = 10, types (0,27), (1,27), (2,27) and (1,31) are missed. For n = 9, the following values are missed: (0,22), (1,22), (2,22), (3,22), (5,22), (0,24), (1,24), (2,24), (1,27), (2,27), (3,27) and (5,27).

Numerous exceptions occur for $5 \le n \le 8$. Nevertheless, we can now apply Lemma 3.2 to establish

Lemma 5.1: For $n \ge 12$, y(n,4) = B(n,4).

Proof:

For $12 \le n \le 15$, this follows from Lemmas 3.2, 3.3 and the small rectangles given. For $n \ge 16$, choose n_1 and n_2 so that $n = n_1 + n_2$, with $n_1 \ge 12$, $n_2 \ge 4$, and n_1 and n_2 as equal as possible. Apply Lemma 3.2 to combine $y(n_1,4)$ and $y(n_2,4)$. \square

6. Proof of the Main Theorem

We extend a $4 \times n$ rectangle to an $n \times n$ square. The appended rows form an $(n-d) \times n$ rectangle, which we construct in general using Lemma 3.1. Our strategy is to introduce first the general method which works for $n \ge 16$; subsequently, using this general method together with some special constructions for each n, we complete the determination for $10 \le n \le 15$.

We assume throughout the proof that $n \ge 10$. Consider $(t,s) \in \mathcal{B}(n,n)$. If $s \le 4n$, $(t,s) \in \mathcal{Y}(n,n)$ with the possible exceptions for n=10 and 11 stated earlier. Hence we may assume that s > 4n.

If $t \ge 3n$, choose f, g, h and k so that t = fn + g, s = hn + k, $2 \le f \le n - 4$ and $n \le g \le k \le 4n$. Then $(g,k) \in \mathcal{Y}(n,4)$ and Lemma 3.1 provides the required $(n-4) \times n$ rectangle of type (fn,hn). Hence we may assume that t < 3n.

If $t \ge 2n$, write t = 2n + g, s = hn + k where $2 \le h \le n - 4$, $0 \le g < n$ and $2n < k \le 4n$. Then $(g,k) \in \mathcal{Y}(n,4)$ with the noted possible exceptions on n = 10 and 11. Lemma 3.1 completes the construction.

At this point, we have t < 2n and s > 4n. If $s \ge 5n$, write t = g, s = hn + k where $3 \le h \le n-4$, $0 \le g < 2n$ and $2n \le k \le 4n$ and proceed as above.

For $n \ge 12$, what remains is just those types (t,s) with $0 \le t < 2n$ and 4n < s < 5n; some additional omissions occur for n = 10 and 11 as a result of the possible exceptions in $\mathcal{Y}(n,4)$. To handle these remaining values, we treat cases for n.

If $n \ge 16$, Lemma 5.1 ensures that all values in $\mathcal{Y}(n,4)$ can be constructed by an application of Lemma 3.2 in which n_1 and n_2 are chosen as equal as possible subject to $n_1 \ge 12$ and $n_2 \ge 4$. Hence we may assume that the 4 3-factors chosen partition 3G, where G is a 4-regular spanning subgraph of $K_{n_1,n_1} \cup K_{n_2,n_2}$. One can 3-factorize $3(K_{n,n}-G)$ with type $(0,3n_1)$. Now writing t=g, $s=3n_1+k$ for the remaining values (t,s) guarantees that $k \le 4n$. Moreover, $k > n+3n_2$. We must verify that $g \le k$. Since g < 2n and $k > n+3n_2$, this holds provided $3n_2 \ge n$ and hence holds for all $n \ge 16$.

Finally, we must treat small values of n. For n=15, the method for $n \ge 16$ leaves one possible omission, (1,64). Observe then that $K_{15,15}$ can be partitioned into three subgraphs isomorphic to $K_{5,5} \cup K_{5,5} \cup K_{5,5}$. Hence adding any nine types in $\mathcal{Y}(5,5)$ gives a type in $\mathcal{Y}(15,15)$. Since $\{(0,0),(0,20),(0,25),(1,19)\}\subseteq \mathcal{Y}(5,5)$, this constructs the required value.

For n=14, the general method leaves the possible exceptions of $\{(0,57),(1,57),(2,57),(1,61)\}$. $K_{14,14}$ can be partitioned into two factors, each isomorphic to $K_{7,7} \cup K_{7,7}$. Since y(7,4) contains (0,0), (0,12), (0,21), (0,24), (1,24), (1,28) and (2,24), the required values are all constructed.

For n=13, we proceed similarly, applying Lemma 3.2 with $n_1=9$ and $n_2=4$. Since we are only concerned with types with $53 \le s \le 64$, the only exceptions to handle are (1,54), (2,54), (3,54) and (5,54). The remaining 9-regular graph from this construction has a 3-factorization of type (0,27), and hence since $(0,12) \in \mathcal{Y}(9,4)$ and $\{(1,15),(2,15),(3,15),(5,15)\} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}(4,4)$, these omissions are constructed.

For n=12, employing the general method is complicated by the large number of omissions in Y(8,4). Hence we handle the types (t,s) with $49 \le s \le 59$ and $0 \le t \le 23$ in a different way. $K_{12,12}$ has a partition into three copies of $K_{4,4} \cup K_{4,4} \cup K_{4,4}$; hence we can add any nine types in Y(4,4) to obtain a type in Y(12,12). Now Y(4,4) contains (0,0), (0,12), (0,15), (0,16), (15,15), (16,16) and all types $\{(i,15),(i,16)\}$ with $0 \le i \le 15$. Summing these types, we obtain all values with $s \in \{51,52,53,54,57,58,59\}$. Since $(4,4) \in Y(4,4)$, we obtain in addition all types with $t \ge 4$ and $s \in \{49,50,55,56\}$. This leaves only $t \in \{0,1,2,3\}$ and $s \in \{49,50,55,56\}$. Next apply Lemma 3.2 with $n_1=7$ and $n_2=5$. The complement has a factorization of type (0,21); since $(0,9) \in Y(7,4)$ and $\{(i,19),(i,20)\} \subseteq Y(5,4)$ for $i \in \{0,1,2,3\}$, this constructs the remaining examples with $t \in \{49,50\}$. Finally, applying Lemma 3.2 with $n_1=8$ and $n_2=4$, we factor the complement with type (0,24); since $(0,16) \in Y(8,4)$ and $\{(i,15),(i,16)\} \subseteq Y(4,4)$ for $i \in \{0,1,2,3\}$, this settles the cases with $s \in \{55,56\}$ and completes the determination for n=12.

For n=11, we must handle all types (t,s) with $0 \le t \le 21$ and $45 \le s \le 54$, in addition to those arising from the possible omission of (1,31) in $\mathcal{Y}(11,4)$. We handle the latter cases first. Suppose in the earlier constructions that g=1 and k=31. Since (1,20) and (1,42) are both in $\mathcal{Y}(11,4)$, we could instead choose k=20 unless h=n-4=7; in this single case, we choose k=42 and decrement h by one. This leaves the exception of (1,31) itself. For this value, apply Lemma 3.2 with $n_1=6$ and $n_2=5$;

the bipartite complement is precisely the graph obtained by applying Lemma 3.3 with $n_1=n_2=6$. In this latter graph, we have type (0,9). Then taking $(0,0)\in \mathcal{Y}(5,5)$ and $(1,22)\in \mathcal{Y}(6,5)$ constructs (1,31) in $\mathcal{Y}(11,11)$. Now we must deal with the large block of omissions.

Apply Lemma 3.2 with $n_1=7$ and $n_2=4$. The 7-regular complement has a 3-factor which consists of two copies of a 3-cube together with $K_{3,3}$. Observing that (0,0), (0,9), (0,12), (0,21), (9,9), (9,21) and (12,12) all appear as types of factorizations of the complement, and that (0,21), (0,26), (0,27) and (0,28) all appear in $\mathcal{Y}(7,4)$, we add to types $\{(i,15),(i,16):0\leq i\leq 15\}\subseteq \mathcal{Y}(4,4)$ to settle all remaining cases, except those with s=47. In this last case, we take (0,9) in the complement, $(0,12)\in \mathcal{Y}(4,4)$ and $(i,26)\in \mathcal{Y}(7,4)$ for $0\leq i\leq 26$ to produce all types required with s=47.

For n=10, we treat the exceptions in the general constructions as above. To handle the omission of (0,27), we employ (0,17) and (0,37) which are present. For the omission of (2,27), we employ (2,17) and (2,37). However, for (1,27) we cannot employ (1,17), which is forbidden by the necessary conditions; this results in the further omission of (1,57) and (21,47). Similarly, for the omission (1,31), we cannot employ (1,41) and hence we obtain the further omissions of (1,91) and (21,91). Hence we have the four original omissions, four additional ones, and all types (t,s) with $0 \le t \le 19$ and $41 \le s \le 49$ to handle. Since $K_{10,10}$ can be partitioned into four copies of $K_{5,5}$, we require some knowledge of y(5,5). In [1], a complete solution is given for the complete graph $3K_6$; applying Construction E from [1] (as corrected earlier here), we find (at least) that all types (t,s) with $0 \le t \le 25$ and $\max(t,20) \le s \le 25$ appear in y(5,5). Hence adding any four types in y(5,5) produces all of the required values except the four original exceptions (remark that for (1,57) we are also employing that $(0,15) \in y(5,5)$).

Let us then handle the last four omissions. Let S_6 be the 4-regular spanning subgraph of $K_{6,6}$ whose bipartite complement forms two 6-cycles. Since S_6 is 1-factorable, $3S_6$ has a 3-factorization of type (0,0). Now apply Lemma 3.2 with n_1 =6 and n_2 =4, so that the subgraph of $K_{6,6}$ covered is S_6 . Then the 6-regular complement left by Lemma 3.2 can be partitioned into two 3-factors, each consisting of two copies of $K_{3,3}$ and one 3-cube. Hence the complement can be factored with type (0,12). Then since (0,15), (1,15) and (2,15) appear in $\mathcal{Y}(4,4)$, the types (0,27), (1,27) and (2,27) in $\mathcal{Y}(10,10)$ are handled. If instead one chooses the 4-regular subgraph of $K_{6,6}$ to have bipartite complement consisting of three 4-cycles, one can factor the resulting 6-regular complement with type (0,15). Then since (1,16) is in $\mathcal{Y}(4,4)$, (1,31) is in $\mathcal{Y}(10,10)$.

We have established that for all $n \ge 10$, $\mathcal{B}(n,n) \subseteq \mathcal{Y}(n,n)$. Together with Lemma 2.1, this proves the Main Theorem.

7. Intermediate Cases

We have obtained a complete solution thus far for n=3 and 4, and for $n \ge 10$. In this section, we outline what remains for the intermediate cases.

For n=9, applying Lemma 3.1 to the solutions in y(9,4) as in the proof of the Main Theorem leaves all values (t,s) for $0 \le t \le 17$ and $37 \le s \le 44$, in addition to those resulting from the possible exceptions in y(9,4), namely (0,22), (1,22), (2,22), (5,22), (0,24), (1,24), (2,24), (1,27), (2,27), (3,27), (5,27), (18,40), (19,40), (20,40), (21,40), (23,40), (0,49), (1,49), (2,49), (3,49) and (5,49). Earlier we observed that Construction E

of [1] can be applied to produce many types in y(5,5); applying Lemma 3.3 to the resulting rectangles produces values in y(9,5). In this way, we immediately handle all possible exceptions with $37 \le s \le 44$. Moreover, the complement remaining contains $K_{4,4}$, and hence we obtain the types with s=49, and the remaining values with s=27, along with (0,24). Hence the only types whose membership in y(9,9) is in doubt are: (0,22), (1,22), (2,22), (3,22), (5,22), (1,24) and (2,24).

For n=8, there is a large number of omissions in y(8,4). We employed three constructions here, in addition to those used already for y(8,4). First of all, Lemma 3.1 applies to extend those values in y(8,4). Second, we observe that $K_{8,8}$ has a partition into four copies of $K_{4,4}$ and hence we can add any four types in y(4,4) to obtain a type in y(8,8). Third, remark that Lemma 3.3 with $n_1=5$ and $n_2=4$ partitions a 4-regular subgraph of $K_{8,8}$ which is isomorphic to its bipartite complement, and hence we can add any two types resulting from this application of Lemma 3.3 to obtain a type in y(8,8).

Many exceptions remain. Hence we resort to constructions of factorizations of $3K_{2n,2n}$ from 3-factorizations of $3K_{2n}$. Our basic device is Construction C of [1]: whenever there is a 3-factorization of $3K_{2n}$ of type (t,s), there is a 3-factorization of $3K_{2n,2n}$ of type (2t,2s). This can be done quite simply. Given a 3-factorization of $3K_{2n}$ on symbols $1, \dots, 2n$, form a 3-factorization of $3K_{2n,2n}$ on symbols $\{x_i, y_i : i = 1, \dots, 2n\}$. In the kth 3-factor, connect x_i and y_j the same number of times that i and j are connected in the kth factor of $3K_{2n}$. Finally, add the triplicated 1-factor $\{\{x_i, y_i\}: i = 1, \dots, 2n\}$.

By exchanging edges from the triplicated 1-factor, we can achieve many different values. For example, suppose that the kth factor of $3K_{2n}$ contains $\{i,j\}$ as a singly repeated edge. Then in the 3-factorization of $3K_{2n,2n}$, we "trade" edges $\{x_i,y_j\}$ and $\{x_j,y_i\}$ of the kth factor with edges $\{x_i,y_i\}$ and $\{x_j,y_j\}$ of the 2nth factor to obtain a 3-factorization of type (2t+2,2s+2). In fact, since this can be done on disjoint singly repeated edges, we also obtain types (2t+4,2s+4) and (2t+6,2s+6) in this way. In a similar vein, if $\{i,j\}$ is singly repeated in a factor and $\{i,k\}$ is singly repeated in a different factor, trading twice as above gives type (2t+2,2s+3). If instead $\{i,k\}$ is singly repeated in the same factor, we obtain type (2t+3,2s+3). If $\{i,j\}$, $\{i,k\}$ and $\{j,k\}$ are all singly repeated in different factors, trading three times as above gives type (2t,2s+3). If $\{i,j\}$, $\{i,\ell\}$, $\{j,k\}$ and $\{k,\ell\}$ appear singly in factors, so that incident edges are in different factors, four such trades gives type (2t,2s+4).

After applying this generalized construction to the known 3-factorizations of $3K_8$ in [1], the following exceptions remain in y(8,8):

<u>t</u>	Omissions for s
0	18-23, 25, 26
1	19-26, 33-38, 49
2	17-25
3	18-26, 34, 50
4	18, 21-23, 25
5	17, 18, 21-25
6	17
7	17
8	17
9	17

Now turning to n=7, we observe first that applying Lemma 3.3 with $n_1=n_2=4$ leaves uncovered a 3-regular graph which is $K_{3,3}$ and a 3-cube. Hence we can add a type in $\mathcal{Y}(3,3)$, a type in $\mathcal{Y}(4,3)$ and a type resulting from Lemma 3.3 to obtain a type in $\mathcal{Y}(7,7)$. We can also apply Construction E of [1] to the 3-factorizations of $3K_8$ given in [1]; after doing so, we leave only the following possible exceptions:

t	Omissions for s
0	15-20, 22, 23, 25, 32, 43, 44
1	15, 16, 18-23, 25, 32, 34, 41, 43, 44, 46
2	14-22, 41, 43
3	12, 14-23, 34, 43, 44
4	14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22
5	15, 16, 18-22, 43
6	13, 14, 17
7	13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22
8	14
9	13, 14, 16, 17
10	14
11	14

For n=6, we can add four types in y(3,3) to obtain a type in y(6,6). We can also apply Construction C of [1] to the 3-factorizations of $3K_6$; in fact, we use the augmented Construction outlined above for n=8. Combining all of these techniques, we leave a large number of possible exceptions, as follows:

t	Omissions for s
0	12, 14-16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31-35
1	15, 16, 18-21, 23-36
2	14-19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33-36
3	14-16, 18-21, 23, 24, 34-36
4	12-16, 19, 20, 23, 25, 35
5	14-19, 24, 34, 36
6	11-14, 16, 19, 23
7	12-16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 34
8	9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 23, 25
9	11-16, 34
10	19
11	19, 20, 22, 34
12	19
13	20
17	17, 18, 20
29	29, 30
31	31
33	34
35	35, 36

Finally, earlier results, together with the application of Construction E of [1], leaves the following possible exceptions for n=5:

t	Omissions for s
0	9, 12, 14, 17
1	15, 16, 18
2	14-16
3	12, 14-17
4	9, 12-14, 16
5	14-16
6	8, 9, 11-13, 16
7	8, 9, 12-17
8	8, 11, 16
9	11, 13

We expect that most of the omissions left for $5 \le n \le 9$ could in fact be constructed.

We should also note that the results here can in fact be used to eliminate some of the possible exceptions left in the case of complete graphs in [1].

8. Concluding Remarks

Of most interest in the results here are the differences between complete graphs and complete bipartite graphs. For complete graphs, we find only forty-three omitted types while here we find sixty-six. Nevertheless, the same conclusion holds: if t or s is large enough, there are no exceptions.

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