

Steiner Triple Systems with a Given Automorphism

Rebecca Calahan

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Abstract. We give necessary and sufficient conditions on the order of a Steiner triple system admitting an automorphism π , consisting of 1 large cycle, several cycles of length 4 and a fixed point.

1. Introduction.

A Steiner triple system of order v , denoted $S(v)$, is an ordered pair (X, B) , where X is a set of cardinality v , and B is a set of 3-subsets of X , called blocks, such that any 2-subset of X is contained in a unique block. A Steiner triple system of order v with a hole of size w , denoted $S(v)_w$, can be defined as follows:

Let X be a set of size v , $X' \subset X$, $|X'| = w$ and B a set of 3-subsets of X , called blocks. Then (X, X', B) is an $S(v)_w$ if

- i. no 2-subset of X' is contained in any block; and
- ii. all other 2-subsets of X are contained in a unique block.

An automorphism of an $S(v)$, or an $S(v)_w$, is a permutation π of the set X that preserves the blocks in B . π is said to be of type $[\pi] = [\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_v]$ if the disjoint cyclic decomposition of π has π_i cycles of length i . So $\sum i\pi_i = v$. A question of concern has been that of given a particular automorphism type, does there exist an $S_\pi(v)$? A more general question is: for a particular automorphism type, does there exist an $S_\pi(v)_w$? Then when possible, extend the $S_\pi(v)_w$ to an $S_\pi(v)$. For $[\pi] = [1, t, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$ and $[0, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0]$, necessary and sufficient conditions have been shown for the existence of $S_\pi(v)_w$ and $S_\pi(v)$ [1]. In this paper, we give necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of $S_\pi(v)_w$ and $S_\pi(v)$ when $[\pi] = [1, 0, 0, t, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$.

2. $S_\pi(v)_w$ with $[\pi] = [1, 0, 0, t, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$.

The automorphism has 1 fixed point, t 4-cycles and 1 cycle of length d . So $v = d + 4t + 1$. For the $S_\pi(v)_w$, let:

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \{\infty, x_1, y_1, z_1, w_1, \dots, x_t, y_t, z_t, w_t, 0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1\} \\ X' &= \{\infty, x_1, y_1, z_1, w_1, \dots, x_t, y_t, z_t, w_t\} \\ (\pi) &= (\infty)(x_1, y_1, z_1, w_1) \dots (x_t, y_t, z_t, w_t)(0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1) \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.1. Let $(\pi): (0_0, 1_0, \dots, s_0-1) (0_1, 1_1, \dots, s_1-1) \dots (0_k, 1_k, \dots, s_k-1)$ be a permutation of the v -element set $X = \{0_0, 1_0, \dots, s_0-1, 0_1, 1_1, \dots,$

$s_1 - 1, \dots, 0_k, 1_k, \dots, s_k - 1$. Let $X' = \{0_1, 1_1, \dots, s_1 - 1, \dots, 0_k, 1_k, \dots, s_k - 1\}$, $|X'| = w$. Then if $S_\pi(v)_w$ on X with hole on X' exists, $s_i \mid s_0$ for each $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Proof: Let $a_i \in \{0_i, 1_i, \dots, s_i - 1\}$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then $\{0_0, a_i\}$ must be in a block of the form $\{a_i, 0_0, x_0\}$. Apply π s_0 times to get $\{a_i + s_0, 0_0, x_0\}$ as a block in the $S_\pi(v)_w$. Then $a_i = (a_i + s_0) \pmod{s_i}$. So $s_i \mid s_0$. ■

By the above lemma, $4 \mid d$. So let $d = 4e$. Since every 2-subset of X/X' must appear in a block, each of the differences in the set $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 2e\}$ must be in a difference triple. For each of the 4-cycles, either 0 or 2 odd differences are required, hence, an even number of odd differences in S will be in blocks of the form $\{x_i, a, b\}$, $x_i \in X'$, $a, b \in X/X'$. The remaining odd differences in S must occur in pairs in difference triples since any difference triple has 2 odd differences or 0 odd differences. S contains e odd differences. If $2j$ odd differences are removed, $e - 2j$ must be even and so e must be even.

We have the following necessary conditions for the existence of an $S_\pi(v)_w$ on X with hole on X' :

- (1) $d = 4e$ and e must be even;
- (2) $t \leq \lfloor \frac{3}{4}e \rfloor$, with strict inequality if $e = 6, 12, 14, 18$ or $20 \pmod{24}$;
- (3) If 3 divides e , then $3 \mid (2e - 2t - 2)$.
If 3 does not divide e , then $3 \mid (2e - 2t - 1)$.

For a complete proof of 2. and 3. see [1]. These necessary conditions are equivalent to partitioning the set $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 2e - 1\}$, $e = \frac{d}{4}$, $d = v - 4t - 1$, into sets A , B , and C such that

- (1) A can be partitioned into difference triples \pmod{d} ;
- (2) B is $2t$ -set of even number of odd numbers and an even number of even numbers congruent to $2 \pmod{4}$;
- (3) $C = \emptyset$ or $C = \{\frac{1}{3}e\}$.

Given the partition of S into sets A , B , and C , form started blocks of the following types:

Type I: For each $a, b, c \in A$ such that (a, b, c) is a difference triple, with $a + b = c$ or $a + b + c \equiv 0 \pmod{4e}$, form $\{0, a, a + b\}$.

Type II: For each i , $1 \leq i \leq t$, take 2 numbers a and b from B , with a and b both even or both odd.

If $a, b \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ or if $a \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $b \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, take $\{x_i, 0, a\}$ and $\{x_i, 1, 1 + b\}$.

If $a, b \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ or $a, b \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, take $\{x_i, 0, a\}$ and $\{x_i, 2, 2 + b\}$.

If $a \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $b \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, take $\{x_i, 0, a\}$ and $\{x_i, 3, 3 + b\}$.

Type III: If $C = \{\frac{1}{3}e\}$, form $\{0, \frac{e}{3}, \frac{2e}{3}\}$.

Type IV: $\{\infty, 0, 2e\}$.

For a proof that these blocks form an $S_\pi(v)_w$ see [1].

According to the necessary conditions, the following table gives values of e and corresponding values of t for which $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 2e - 1\}$ must be partitioned. The third column gives the range of t since $0 \leq t \leq \lfloor \frac{3e}{4} \rfloor$, with strict inequality for $e \equiv 6, 12, 14, 18$ or $20 \pmod{24}$.

$t = 3k + n, n \in Z_3$	$e = 6s + m, m \in Z_6$	range of t
\underline{n}	\underline{m}	
0	2	$s \equiv 0 \pmod{4}: 0 \leq k \leq \frac{3s}{2}$ $s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}: 0 \leq k \leq \frac{3s+1}{2}$ $s \equiv 2 \pmod{4}: 0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor - 1$ $s \equiv 3 \pmod{4}: 1 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor$
1	0	$0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor / 2$
2	0	$s \equiv 0 \pmod{2}: 0 \leq k \leq \frac{3s-2}{2}$ $s \equiv 1 \pmod{2}: 0 \leq k \leq \frac{3(s-1)}{2}$
	4	$0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor$

3. Extending the $S_\pi(v)_w$ to a $S_\pi(v)$.

Since $v \equiv 1$ or $3 \pmod{6}$ for an $S_\pi(v)$, the only possible values of t are $t \equiv 0$ or $2 \pmod{3}$, if the $S_\pi(v)_w$ is to be extended to an $S_\pi(v)$. Also, in order to extend to an $S_\pi(v)$, an $S_{\pi_1}(w)$ is needed with $[\pi_1] = [1, 0, 0, \frac{w-1}{4}, 0, \dots, 0]$. If an $S_{\pi_1}(w)$ exists, then an $S_{(\pi_1)^2}(w)$ exists with $[(\pi_1)^2] = [1, \frac{w-1}{2}, 0, \dots, 0]$, which is a reverse Steiner triple system and has been shown to exist iff $w \equiv 1, 3, 9$ or $19 \pmod{24}$ [7]. Hence, $t = \frac{w-1}{4}$ results in $t \equiv 0$ or $2 \pmod{6}$ for the $S_{\pi_1}(w)$. If $t \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$, $w \equiv 1 \pmod{24}$. By [4], a 2-rotational Steiner triple system exists for $w \equiv 1 \pmod{24}$. If π is 2-rotational, $\pi^{\frac{w-1}{4}}$ is of type $[1, 0, 0, \frac{w-1}{4}, 0, \dots, 0]$ obtaining the desired automorphism. If $t \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$, $w \equiv 9 \pmod{24}$. Again a 2-rotational $S_\pi(w)$ exists for $w \equiv 9 \pmod{24}$ and $\pi^{\frac{w-1}{4}}$ is of the form $[1, 0, 0, \frac{w-1}{4}, 0, \dots]$.

In conclusion, we have that a $S_\pi(w)$, $[\pi] = [1, 0, 0, t, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$ exists iff $v \equiv 1 \pmod{24}$ and $t \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ or $v \equiv 9 \pmod{24}$ and $t \equiv 0$ or $2 \pmod{6}$, $t \leq \lfloor \frac{3e}{4} \rfloor$ with strict inequality if $e \equiv 6, 12, 14, 18$ or $20 \pmod{24}$.

The size of t varies with each value of e . In most cases as t increases by 3, each new partition of S is based on the previous partition. Hence, it is possible to set up a recursion form based on varying sizes of t corresponding to particular values of s . So for $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 2e - 1\}$, $0 \leq k \leq j$, j as determined by the range of

k for values of e , let:

$$A_0 = \{ (x, y, z) | x, y, z \in A \text{ and } (x, y, z) \text{ is a difference triple } (\text{mod } 4e) \}$$

$$B_0 = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2t} \text{ where } a_1, \dots, a_{2t} \text{ are elements of } S \text{ satisfying the conditions of set } B\}$$

$$C_0 = \{4e/3\} \text{ or } \emptyset$$

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(a_1, b_1, c_1), (a_2, b_2, c_2)\} \text{ with the set } \{a_1, b_1, c_1, a_2, b_2, c_2\} \text{ containing an even number of odds or an even number of numbers congruent to } 2 \pmod{4} \}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{a_1, b_2, c_1, a_2, b_2, c_2\}$$

$$C_k = C_0 \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq j$$

We show here a partition of $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 2e - 1\}$ for $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ and $e \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$. The remaining partitions for each value of e and corresponding values of t are given in [1], hence, showing that the necessary conditions for the $S_\pi(v)_w$, are also sufficient.

For the partition of S , let $e = 6s$, $t = 3k + 1$ and $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 12s - 1\}$. There are 4 cases:

$$s \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \quad t = 3k + 1 \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq \frac{3s}{2} - 1$$

$$s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \quad t = 3k + 1 \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq \left\lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$$

$$s \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \quad t = 3k + 1 \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq \left\lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$$

$$s \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \quad t = 3k + 1 \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq \left\lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$$

$$C_k = \emptyset \text{ for all } k$$

$$s \equiv 0 \pmod{4}.$$

$$A_0 = \{(1+2m, 12s-2-4m, 12s-1-2m); m=2, 3, \dots, 3s-1, (4, 12s-6, 12s-2), (1, 12s-4, 12s-3), (4r, 4(a_r+s), 4(b_r+s)); r=2, 3, \dots, s \text{ with } (a_r, b_r) \text{ as defined below} \}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 12s - 1\}$$

$$(a_r, b_r), r = 2, 3, \dots, s[15]$$

$$(1) \left(\frac{s}{4}, \frac{5s}{4} - 1\right), \left(\frac{s}{2}, \frac{3s}{2}\right), \left(s - 1, \frac{3s}{2} - 1\right)$$

$$(2) \left(\frac{s}{4} + m, \frac{3s}{4} - m\right); m = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{s}{4} - 1$$

$$(3) (s - 1 + m, 2s - 1 - m); m = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{s}{4} - 1$$

$$(4) (m, s - 1 - m); m = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{s}{4} - 1$$

$$(5) \left(\frac{5s}{4} - 1 + m, \frac{7s}{4} - m\right); m = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{s}{4} - 1$$

This is based on Davies [3] using Theorem 2 with the case $n = 4m - 1$.

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(1 + 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k), \\ (3 + 4k, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{1 + 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k, \\ 3 + 4k, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3\}$$

$$s \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, s \geq 13.$$

$$A_0 = \{(1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12s - 1 - 2m); m = 2, 3, \dots, 3s - 1, \\ (4, 12s - 6, 12s - 2), (8, 12s - 16, 12s - 8), \\ (12, 12s - 24, 12s - 12), (1, 12s - 4, 12s - 3), (4r, 4(a_r + s), 4(b_r + s)); \\ r = 4, 5, \dots, s \text{ with } (a_r, b_r) \text{ as defined below}\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 12s - 1\}$$

For $1 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor - 1$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(1 + 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k), \\ (3 + 4k, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{1 + 4k, 12s - 1 - 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, \\ 3 + 4k, 12s - 4k - 3, 12s - 8k - 6\}$$

$$(a_r, b_r), r = 4, 5, \dots, s$$

$$(1) \left(\frac{s-9}{2} - m, \frac{s-1}{2} + m \right); m=0, 1, \dots, \frac{s-13}{4}$$

$$(2) \left(\frac{s-9}{4} - m, \frac{3s-3}{2} + m \right); m=0, \dots, \frac{s-13}{4}$$

$$(3) \left(\frac{3s-13}{2} - m, \frac{3s-3}{2} + m \right); m=0, \dots, \frac{s-13}{4} - 1$$

$$(4) \left(\frac{5s-17}{4} - m, \frac{7s-15}{4} + m \right); m=0, \dots, \frac{s-13}{4}$$

$$(5) (s-2s-5), \left(s-3, \frac{3s-7}{2} \right), \left(\frac{3s-11}{4}, \frac{7s-19}{4} \right), \\ \left(\frac{3s-7}{9}, \frac{5s-13}{4} \right), \left(\frac{s-3}{2}, \frac{3s-11}{2} \right)$$

$$(6) \left(\frac{s-7}{2} + m, \frac{3s-9}{2} + 2m \right); m=0, 1.$$

This is based on Simpson [6] using a hooked sequence $\{4, 5, \dots, 4 + m - 1\}$, $m = s - 3$.

$$s = 1$$

$$A_0 = \{(4, 6, 10), (1, 8, 9), (2, 5, 7)\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 11\}$$

$$s = 5$$

$$A_0 = \{(1, 56, 57), (4, 54, 58), (8, 40, 48), (12, 24, 36),$$

$$(16, 28, 44), (20, 32, 52), (1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12s - 1 - 2m);$$

$$m = 2, \dots, 3s - 1\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 59\}$$

For $1 \leq k \leq 6$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(1 + 4k, 58 - 8k, 59 - 4k), (3 + 4k, 54 - 8k, 57 - 4k)\}$$

$$B_k = B_k \cup \{1 + 4k, 59 - 4k, 58 - 8k, 3 + 4k, 57 - 4k, 54 - 8k\}$$

$$s = 9$$

$$A_0 = \{(1 + 2m, 12s - 2m, 12s - 1 - 2m); m = 2, \dots, 3s - 1, \\ (4, 106, 102), (1, 105, 104), (8, 92, 100), (12, 52, 64), (16, 80, 96), \\ (20, 48, 68), (24, 60, 84), (28, 44, 72), (32, 56, 88), (36, 40, 76)\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 107\}$$

For $1 \leq k \leq 12$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(1 + 4k, 106 - 8k, 107 - 4k), (3 + 4k, 102 - 8k, 105 - 4k)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{1 + 4k, 107 - 4k, 106 - 8k, 3 + 4k, 105 - 4k, 102 - 8k\}$$

$$s \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, s \geq 10$$

$$A_0 = \{(1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12s - 1 - 2m); m = 3, \dots, 3s - 1, \\ (8, 12s - 12, 12s - 4), (4, 12s - 10, 12s - 6), (5, 12s - 8, 12s - 3), \\ (1, 12s - 2, 12s - 1), (4r, 4(a_r + s), 4(b_r + s)); \\ r = 3, \dots, s \text{ with } (a_r, b_r) \text{ as defined below}\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 12s - 5\}$$

$$A_1 = A_0 / \{(1, 12s - 1, 12s - 2), (7, 12s - 14, 12s - 7)\}$$

$$B_1 = B_0 \cup \{1, 12 - 1, 12s - 2, 5, 12s - 14, 12 - 7\}$$

For $2 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor - 1$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(4k + 3, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3), \\ (1 + 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{4k + 3, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3, 1 + 4k, \\ 12s - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k\}$$

$$(a_r, b_r), r = 3, \dots, s$$

$$(1) \left(\frac{s-2}{2} - 2 - m, \frac{s-2}{2} + 2 + m \right); m=0, \dots, \frac{s-2}{4} - 3$$

$$(2) \left(\frac{s-2}{4} - m, \frac{3(s-2)}{4} + 1 + m \right); m=0, \dots, \frac{s-2}{4} - 2$$

$$(3) \left(\frac{3(s-2)}{2} - 1 - m, \frac{3(s-2)}{2} + 2 + m \right);$$

$$m=0, \dots, \frac{s-2}{4} - 2$$

$$(4) \left(\frac{5(s-2)}{4} - m, \frac{7(s-2)}{4} + 2 + m \right); m=0 \dots, \frac{s-2}{4} - 2$$

$$(5) \left(\frac{s-2}{2} + 1, s-1 \right), \left(\frac{3(s-2)}{4}, \frac{7(s-2)}{4} + 1 \right), \\ \left(\frac{s-2}{2} - 1, \frac{3s-2}{2} + 1 \right), \left(\frac{s-2}{2}, \frac{3(s-2)}{2} \right).$$

Omit (1) if $s = 10$.

This is based on Simpson [6] using a perfect sequence $\{3, \dots, 3 + m - 1\}$, $m = s - 2$.

$s = 2$

$$A_0 = \{ (4, 14, 18), (8, 12, 20), (5, 21, 16), (1, 22, 23), \\ (7, 10, 17), (9, 6, 15), (11, 13, 2) \}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 19\}$$

$$A_1 = \{ (4, 14, 18), (8, 12, 20), (5, 21, 16), (1, 22, 23), \\ (7, 10, 17) \}$$

$$B_1 = \{3, 29, 9, 6, 15, 11, 13, 2\}$$

$$A_2 = \{(4, 14, 18), (8, 12, 20), (5, 21, 16)\}$$

$$B_2 = \{3, 19, 9, 6, 15, 13, 11, 2, 7, 10, 17, 1, 22, 23\}$$

$s = 6$

$$A_0 = \{ (1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12 - 1 - 2m); m = 3, 4, \dots, 3s - 1, \\ (4, 62, 66), (8, 28, 36), (12, 48, 60), (16, 40, 46), \\ (1, 71, 70), (20, 32, 52), (24, 44, 68), (3, 64, 67) \}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 69\}$$

$$A_1 = A_0 / \{(1, 70, 71), (7, 58, 65)\}$$

$$B_1 = B_0 \cup \{1, 70, 71, 7, 58, 65\}$$

For $2 \leq k \leq 8$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(4k+3, 66-8k, 69-4k), (1+4k, 70-8k, 71-4k)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{4k+3, 66-8k, 69-4k, 1+4k, 70-8k, 71-4k\}$$

$s \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, $s \geq 11$

$$A_0 = \{(1+2m, 12-2-4m, 12-1-2m); m=3, \dots, 3s-1, \\ (1, 12s-2, 12s-1), (4, 12s-10, 12s-6), (8, 12s-12, 12s-4), \\ (5, 12s-8, 12s-3), (4r, 4(a_r+s), 4(b_r+s)); \\ r=3, \dots, s \text{ with } (a_r, b_r) \text{ as defined below}\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 12s-5\}$$

$$A_1 = A_0 / \{(1, 12s-1, 12s-2), (5, 12s-14, 12s-7)\}$$

$$B_1 = B_0 \cup \{1, 12s-1, 12s-2, 5, 12s-14, 12s-7\}$$

For $2 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{3s}{2} \rfloor - 1$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(4k+3, 12s-8k-6, 12s-4k-3), \\ (1+4k, 12s-2-8k, 12s-1-4k)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{4k+3, 12s-8k-6, 12s-4k-3, 1+4k, \\ 12s-2-8k, 12s-1-4k\}$$

$$(a_r, b_r), r=3, \dots, s$$

$$(1) (m, s-1-m); m=1, \dots, \frac{s-3}{4}$$

$$(2) \left(\frac{s-3}{4} + 1, \frac{5(s-3)}{4} + 3 \right)$$

$$(3) \left(\frac{s-3}{4} + 1 + m, \frac{3(s-3)}{4} + 2 - m \right); m=1, \dots, \frac{s-3}{4} - 1$$

$$(4) \left(\frac{s-3}{2} + 1, \frac{3(s-3)}{2} + 4 \right)$$

$$(5) \left(\frac{s-3}{2} + 2, \frac{3(s-3)}{2} + 3 \right) \text{ and } \left(s-1, \frac{3(s-3)}{2} + 2 \right)$$

$$(6) \left(\frac{5(s-3)}{4} + 3 + m, \frac{7(s-3)}{4} + 3 - m \right); m=1, \dots, \frac{s-3}{4} - 2$$

$$(7) (s-1+m, 2s-3-m); m=1, \dots, \frac{s-3}{4}.$$

This is based on Theorem 1, case iii., for $m = 4k + 1$ in [2].

$s = 3$

$$A_0 = \{(4, 18, 22), (8, 24, 32), (12, 16, 28), (7, 20, 27), \\ (1, 34, 35), (3, 30, 35), (5, 26, 31), \\ (1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12s - 1 - 2m); m = 5, 6, 7, 8\}$$

$$B_0 = \{9, 29\}$$

$$A_1 = A_0 / \{(1, 34, 35), (3, 30, 33)\}$$

$$B_1 = B_0 \cup \{1, 35, 34, 3, 33, 30\}$$

$$A_2 = A_1 / \{(13, 10, 23), (15, 6, 21)\}$$

$$B_2 = B_1 \cup \{13, 23, 10, 15, 21, 6\}$$

$s = 7$

$$A_0 = \{(1 + 2m, 12s - 2 - 4m, 12 - 1 - 2m); m = 3, \dots, 3s - 1, \\ (4, 74, 78), (8, 72, 80), (5, 76, 81), (12, 40, 52), (16, 48, 64), \\ (20, 36, 56), (24, 34, 58), (28, 32, 60), (1, 82, 83)\}$$

$$B_0 = \{3, 79\}$$

$$A_1 = A_0 / \{(1, 82, 83), (7, 70, 77)\}$$

$$B_1 = B_0 \cup \{1, 83, 82, 7, 77, 70\}$$

For $2 \leq k \leq 9$:

$$A_k = A_{k-1} / \{(1 + 4k, 12 - 2 - 8k, 12s - 1 - 4k), \\ (4k + 3, 12 - 8k - 6, 12 - 4k - 3)\}$$

$$B_k = B_{k-1} \cup \{1 + 4k, 12s - 2 - 8k, \\ 12s - 1 - 4k, 4k + 3, 12s - 8k - 6, 12s - 4k - 3\}$$

References

1. R.S. Calahan, *Automorphisms of Steiner triple systems with holes*, Ph.D. Thesis (1990), Auburn University, Auburn, AL.
2. J.C. Bermond, A.E. Brouwer, A. Germa, *Systems De Triplets Et Differences Associees*, *Problèmes Combinatoires Et Theorie Des Graphs* 260 (1976), 35-38.
3. R.O. Davies, *On Langford's problem (I)*, *Math Gaz.* 43 (1959), 253-255.

4. K.T. Phelps and A. Rosa, *Steiner triple systems with rotational automorphisms*, Discrete Math. **33** (1981), 57–66.
5. A. Rosa, *Poznamka O cyklickych Steinerovych systemoch trojic*, Math. Fyz. Cas. **16** (1966), 285–290.
6. J. Simpson, *Langford sequences; perfect and hooked*, Discrete Math. **44** (1983), 97–104.
7. L. Teirlinck, *The existence of reverse Steiner triple systems*, Discrete Math. **6** (1973), 301–302.