

# The fine structure of balanced ternary designs with block size three, index three and $\rho_2 = 1, 2$

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**ABSTRACT:** In this paper necessary and sufficient conditions for a vector to be the fine structure of a balanced ternary design with block size 3, index 3 and  $\rho_2 = 1$  and 2 are determined with one unresolved case.

## 1 Introduction and definitions

A *balanced ternary design* is a collection of multi-sets of size  $k$ , chosen from a  $v$ -set in such a way that each element occurs 0, 1 or 2 times in any one block, each pair of non-distinct elements,  $\{x, x\}$ , occurs in  $\rho_2$  blocks of the design and each pair of distinct elements,  $\{x, y\}$ , occurs  $\lambda$  times throughout the design. We denote these parameters by  $(v; \rho_2; k, \lambda)$ BTD. A BTD on the element set  $V$  is denoted by  $(V, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $\mathcal{B}$  is the collection of multi-subsets of  $V$ . It is easy to see that each element must occur singly in a constant number of blocks, say  $\rho_1$  blocks, and so each element occurs altogether  $r = \rho_1 + 2\rho_2$  times. Also if  $b$  is the number of blocks in the design, then

$$vr = bk \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(v - 1) = r(k - 1) - 2\rho_2.$$

(For further information [3] should be consulted.) In this note we concentrate on the case  $k = \lambda = 3$  and  $\rho_2 = 1$  and 2. A necessary and sufficient

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condition for the existence of such a balanced ternary design is that  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and  $v \geq 9$  when  $\rho_2 = 2$ . (See for example [3].)

A BTD *with a hole*, or a *frame*-BTD, is a collection of multi-sets (blocks) of size  $k$  chosen from a  $v$ -set  $V$  so that the following conditions hold:

- (i)  $\{\infty_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, h\} = H$  is a subset of  $V$  called a *hole*;
- (ii) any element in  $V \setminus H$  occurs 0, 1 or 2 times per block, and precisely twice in  $\rho_2$  blocks;
- (iii) at most one (counting repetitions) element of each block is in  $H$ ;
- (iv) any pair  $xy$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are distinct elements, not both in  $H$ , occurs  $\lambda$  times throughout the design.

We write the parameters of a frame-BTD as  $(v[h]; \rho_2; k, \lambda)$ . Of course a BTD is a frame with  $h = 0$ .

Given a  $(v; \rho_2; k, \lambda)$ BTD, the fine structure of the system is the vector  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_\lambda)$ , where  $c_i$  is the number of blocks repeated precisely  $i$  times. There are some works on the fine structure for designs (see for example, [2,6,7,8,9]).

In this paper we shall determine necessary and sufficient conditions for a vector to be the fine structure of a balanced ternary design with block size 3, index 3 and  $\rho_2 = 1$  and 2. The case  $\rho_2 = 0$  was settled in [6] and [7] and the case  $\rho_2 = 3$  appeared in [8].

Since any two of  $\{c_1, c_2, c_3\}$  determine the third, we use a more convenient notation for the fine structure:  $(t, s)$  is said to be the fine structure of a  $(v; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD, if  $c_2 = t$  and  $c_3 = v(v - 2\rho_2 - 1)/6 - s$ , where  $\rho_2 = 1, 2$ . We first need to know the pairs  $(t, s)$  which can possibly arise as fine structures. We define

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adm}_1(v) &= \{(t, s) \mid 0 \leq t \leq s \leq v(v-3)/6\} \setminus \{(0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3)\}, \\ \text{Adm}_2(v) &= \{(t, s) \mid 0 \leq t \leq s \leq v(v-5)/6\} \end{aligned}$$

and use the notations  $\text{Fine}_1(v)$  and  $\text{Fine}_2(v)$  for the set of fine structures which actually arise in  $(v; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTDs, where  $\rho_2 = 1$  and 2 respectively. Our result is as follows.

## MAIN THEOREM

- (i)  $\text{Fine}_1(v) = \text{Adm}_1(v)$  for all  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \notin \{9, 15\}$ ,  
 $\text{Fine}_1(9) = \text{Adm}_1(9) \setminus \{(0, 4), (1, 1)\}$ ,  
 $\text{Adm}_1(15) \setminus \{(0, 4)\} \subseteq \text{Fine}_1(15)$  and  $\text{Fine}_1(15) \subseteq \text{Adm}_1(15)$ .
- (ii)  $\text{Fine}_2(v) = \text{Adm}_2(v)$  for all  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \geq 9$ .

## 2 Necessary conditions

It is straightforward (see Lemma 1.1 of [8]) to prove:

### Lemma 2.1

- (i) If  $(t, s) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$  then  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq v(v-3)/6$ ;
- (ii) If  $(t, s) \in \text{Fine}_2(v)$  then  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq v(v-5)/6$ .

Before proceeding, we require some notation and preliminary results. Let  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  be a  $(v; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD with the fine structure  $(t, s)$ , and let  $T \subseteq \mathcal{B}$  be those blocks which are not triply repeated. We define

$$T_1 = \{\{a, a, b\} \mid \{a, a, b\} \in \mathcal{B}\}, \text{ and } T_2 = T \setminus T_1.$$

It is straightforward to verify that  $|T| = 4v/3 + 3s$ ,  $|T_1| = v$  and  $|T_2| = v/3 + 3s$ .

If  $x, y \in V$  and  $S \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ , then we denote by  $r_x(S)$  the number of occurrences of  $x$  in  $S$ , and by  $\lambda_{xy}(S)$  the number of occurrences of the pair  $xy$  in the blocks of  $S$ . Also, let  $\alpha = |A|$ , where  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_\alpha\} = \{x \mid r_x(T) = 7\}$ , let  $\beta = |B|$ , where  $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_\beta\} = \{x \mid r_x(T) \geq 10\}$ , and let  $\gamma = |C|$ , where  $C = \{xy \mid \lambda_{xy}(T_2) = 3\}$ .

The following lemma contains several results which we will require later.

### Lemma 2.2

1. For all  $x \in V$ ,  $r_x(T_1) \geq 2$ ,  $r_x(T) \geq 4$  and  $r_x(T) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ;
2. for all distinct  $x, y \in V$ ,  $\lambda_{xy}(T) = 0$  or  $3$ ;
3.  $\sum_{x \in V} r_x(T) = 4v + 9s$ ;
4.  $3\alpha + 6\beta \leq 9s$ ;
5. for all distinct  $x, y \in V$ ,  $\lambda_{xy}(T_1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ;
6.  $\gamma = 3s$ ;
7. for all distinct  $x, y \in V$ ,  $\lambda_{xy}(T_2) \neq 2$ ; and
8. for all  $x \in V$ ,  $r_x(T_2) \geq 1$ .

**Proof:** Note that  $\mathcal{B} \setminus T$  contains exactly the triply repeated blocks.

(1) It follows from the definition that  $r_x(T_1) \geq 2$ . A simple counting argument verifies that  $r_x(\mathcal{B}) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  for all  $x \in V$ , and it is clear that

$r_x(\mathcal{B} \setminus T) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ ; hence  $r_x(T) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  for all  $x \in V$ . From  $r_x(T_1) \geq 2$  and  $r_x(T) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , it follows that  $r_x(T) \geq 4$ .

(2) Since  $\lambda_{xy}(\mathcal{B} \setminus T)$  must be either 0 or 3, it follows that  $\lambda_{xy}(T) = 0$  or 3 for all distinct  $x, y \in V$ .

(3) This is easily verified by counting the number of blocks which are not triply repeated.

(4) Let  $\delta = |\{x : r_x(T) = 4\}|$ . Then from (3), we have

$$4\delta + 7\alpha + 10\beta \leq 4v + 9s.$$

But  $\delta + \alpha + \beta = v$ , and so we have  $3\alpha + 6\beta \leq 9s$ .

(5) This is immediate since the triples in  $T_1$  are all of the form  $xyx$ .

(6) By (5), for distinct  $x, y \in V$ , we have  $\lambda_{xy}(T_1) = 0$  or 2, and so there are exactly  $v$  pairs  $xy$  ( $x \neq y$ ) with  $\lambda_{xy}(T_1) = 2$ . Hence there are exactly  $v$  pairs  $xy$  with  $\lambda_{xy}(T_2) = 1$  (using (2)). Since  $|T_2| = v/3 + 3s$ , we must have  $\sum \lambda_{xy}(T_2) = v + 9s$ , and so it follows that  $\gamma = 3s$ .

(7) This is a consequence of (2) and (5).

(8) We have  $xyx \in T_1$ , for some  $y$ , and so the pair  $xy$  must occur in a triple in  $T_2$ . □

**Lemma 2.3** If  $\lambda_{xy}(T_2) = 3$  then  $r_x(T) \geq 7$ .

**Proof:** Clearly,  $r_x(T_2) \geq 3$ . Hence, since  $r_x(T_1) \geq 2$ , we must have  $r_x(T) \geq 7$  (see (1) in Lemma 2.2). □

**Lemma 2.4** If  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  is a  $(v; 1; 3, 3)$ BTB with the fine structure  $(0, s)$  and there exist distinct  $x, y, z$  with  $\lambda_{xy}(T_2) = \lambda_{xz}(T_2) = 3$  then  $r_x(T) \geq 10$ .

**Proof:** We make use of the fact that there are no repeated blocks in  $T$ . The blocks of  $T_2$  which contain the pairs  $xy$  and  $xz$  must be either:

(1)  $xya, xyb, xyc, xzd, xze, xzf$ , where  $\{x, y, z\} \cap \{a, b, c, d, e, f\} = \emptyset$  and  $a, b, c, d, e, f \in V$ ; or

(2)  $xyz, xya, xyb, xzc, xzd$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in V$ ,  $\{x, y, z\} \cap \{a, b, c, d\} = \emptyset$ ,  $a \neq b$  and  $c \neq d$ .

In case (1),  $r_x(T_2) \geq 6$  and  $r_x(T_1) \geq 2$ , so  $r_x(T) \geq 10$  (using Lemma 2.2 (1)). For case (2), suppose that  $xyz, xya, xyb, xzc, xzd$  and  $xze$  are the only blocks in  $T$  which contain  $x$ . Then we must have  $e = a$ , since otherwise  $\lambda_{xa}(T) \neq 3$ , but similarly we must have  $e = b$ , which is not possible. Hence  $r_x(T) > 7$ , and so  $r_x(T) \geq 10$ . □

**Lemma 2.5** For a  $(v; 1; 3, 3)$ BTB with the fine structure  $(0, s)$ ,  $\gamma \leq \binom{\beta}{2} + \alpha$ , and if  $\beta = 0$  then  $\gamma \leq \lfloor \alpha/2 \rfloor$ .

**Proof:** By Lemma 2.3, if  $\lambda_{xy}(T_2) = 3$  then  $x, y \in A \cup B$ . Moreover, by Lemma 2.4, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, \alpha$  there is at most one pair  $a_i$  containing  $a_i$  and having  $\lambda_{xa_i}(T_2) = 3$ . There are at most  $\lfloor \alpha/2 \rfloor$  pairs  $a_i a_j$ , with no  $a_i$  occurring in more than one such pair, and so if  $\beta = 0$ ,  $\gamma \leq \lfloor \alpha/2 \rfloor$ . Also, there are at most  $\binom{\beta}{2}$  pairs  $b_i b_j$  with  $\lambda_{b_i b_j}(T_2) = 3$ , and so the result follows.  $\square$

We are now ready to prove the following.

**Lemma 2.6**  $(0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3) \notin \text{Fine}_1(v)$ .

**Proof:** Let  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  be a  $(v; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD with the fine structure  $(0, s)$ , and let  $\alpha, A, \beta, B, \gamma$  and  $C$  be as defined above. If  $\beta = 0$ , then  $3s \leq \lfloor \alpha/2 \rfloor \leq \alpha/2$  (from Lemma 2.2 (5) and Lemma 2.5), and  $3\alpha \leq 9s$  (Lemma 2.2 (4)), which tells us that  $\alpha \leq \alpha/2$ , and so  $\alpha = 0$  and  $s = 0$ . If  $\beta \neq 0$ , then by Lemma 2.2 (5) and Lemma 2.5 we have  $3s \leq \binom{\beta}{2} + \alpha$ , and so using Lemma 2.2 (4) we see that  $3\alpha + 6\beta \leq 3(\binom{\beta}{2} + \alpha)$ , and so  $\beta \geq 5$ . Then Lemma 2.2 (4) tells us that  $9s \geq 30$ , and so  $s \geq 4$ . Hence  $(0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3) \notin \text{Fine}_1(v)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7**  $(1, 1) \notin \text{Fine}_1(9)$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  is a  $(9; 1; 3, 3)$  BTD of type  $(1, 1)$  with  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ . Without loss of generality we can assume  $\{123, 123, 124, 135, 236, 789\} \subseteq T_2$  (see Lemma 2.2 (5), (7) and (8)). Now consider the pairs 16, 17, 18 and 19. These pairs must be in triply repeated triples; either 167 and 189, 168 and 179, or 169 and 178. This is impossible since each of the pairs 78, 79 and 89 have already occurred in the triple 789.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8** If  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  is a BTD of type  $(0, 4)$  then  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 6)$  or  $(2, 5)$ .

**Proof:** The result follows immediately from Lemma 2.2 (4) and Lemma 2.5.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9**  $(0, 4) \notin \text{Fine}_1(9)$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $(V, \mathcal{B})$  is a  $(9; 1; 3, 2)$ BTD of type  $(0, 4)$  with  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$  and let  $T, T_1, T_2, \alpha$  and  $\beta$  be as defined earlier. By Lemma 2.8 we must have  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 6)$  or  $(2, 5)$ .

If  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 6)$  then by Lemma 2.2 (3) we can assume without loss of generality that  $r_1(T) = r_2(T) = \dots = r_6(T) = 10$  and  $r_7(T) = r_8(T) = r_9(T) = 4$ .

Now, there are exactly five triply repeated triples in  $\mathcal{B} \setminus T$  and  $r_7(\mathcal{B} \setminus T) = r_8(\mathcal{B} \setminus T) = r_9(\mathcal{B} \setminus T) = 9$ . Hence 7, 8 and 9 must each occur three times in these five triples but with no pair 78, 79 or 89 in more than one. This is impossible and so  $(\alpha, \beta) \neq (0, 6)$ .

If  $(\alpha, \beta) = (2, 5)$  then by Lemma 2.2 (3) we can assume without loss of generality that  $r_1(T) = r_2(T) = \dots = r_5(T) = 10$ ,  $r_6(T) = r_7(T) = 7$  and  $r_8(T) = r_9(T) = 4$ . Since  $\binom{\beta}{2} + \alpha = 12$  (see Lemma 2.5) all of the pairs  $\{i, j\}$  with  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  must occur exactly three times in  $T_2$ . Hence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 are in distinct triples in  $B \setminus T$  and we can assume without loss of generality that the five triply repeated triples (in  $B \setminus T$ ) are 189, 268, 378, 469, 579. Also (since  $\binom{\beta}{2} + \alpha = 12$ ) the other two pairs which occur three times in  $T_2$  must be  $\{i, 6\}$  and  $\{j, 7\}$  for some  $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Moreover, looking at the five triply repeated triples we see that  $i \in \{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $j \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ .

If  $i = 3$  then  $36x, 36y, 36z \in T_2$  for distinct  $x, y$  and  $z$ . But looking at the five triply repeated triples we see that  $x, y, z \notin \{2, 4, 7, 8, 9\}$  which leaves only two possibilities (1 and 5) for  $x, y$  and  $z$  and so  $i \neq 3$ . It is straight forward to check, in a similar manner, that  $i \neq 5, j \neq 2$  and  $j \neq 4$ . Hence we must have  $i = j = 1$ , but this is also impossible as the triple  $11x \in T_1$  forces  $\lambda_{1x} > 3$  for any  $x \in \{2, 3, \dots, 9\}$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** Whether or not  $(0, 4) \in \text{Fine}_1(15)$  is unresolved.

We make use of *group divisible designs* in the next sections. A group divisible design,  $(K, \lambda, M; v)$  GDD, is a collection of subsets of size  $k \in K$ , called blocks, chosen from a  $v$ -set, where the  $v$ -set is partitioned into disjoint subsets (called groups) of size  $m \in M$  such that each block contains at most one element from each group, and any two elements from distinct groups occur together in  $\lambda$  blocks. If  $M = \{m\}$  and  $K = \{k\}$  we write  $(k, \lambda, m; v)$  GDD.

### 3 The fine structure of small orders

In this section we deal with small cases which are needed for the recursive construction in Section 4 and those which are not covered by these constructions.

**Lemma 3.1** (i)  $\text{Fine}_1(9) = \text{Adm}_1(9) \setminus \{(0, 4), (1, 1)\}$ ;  
(ii)  $\text{Fine}_2(9) = \text{Adm}_2(9)$ .

**Proof.** (i) By Lemmas 2.6, 2.7 and 2.9 we have that  $(0, 1)$ ,  $(0, 2)$ ,  $(0, 3)$ ,  $(0, 4)$ , and  $(1, 1)$  are not in  $\text{Fine}_1(9)$ . Now apply Lemmas 2.1 and 2.6 and see [1] for a  $(9; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD of type  $(t, s) \in \text{Adm}_1(9) \setminus \{(0, 4), (1, 1)\}$ .

(ii) Apply Lemma 2.1 and see [1] for a  $(9; 2; 3, 3)$ BTD of type  $(t, s) \in \text{Adm}_2(9)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2** (i) There exists a  $(9[3]; 1; 3, 3)$  frame-BTD with  $c_2$  doubly and  $c_3$  triply repeated blocks where  $(c_2, c_3) \in \{(a, b) \mid 0 \leq a + b \leq 9\} \setminus R$  and

$$R = \{(0, 4), (1, 4), (0, 5), (1, 5), (0, 6), (3, 6), (0, 7), (0, 8), (1, 8)\};$$

(ii) There exists a  $(9[3]; 2; 3, 3)$  frame-BTD with  $c_2$  doubly and  $c_3$  triply repeated blocks where  $(c_2, c_3) \in \{(a, b) \mid 0 \leq a + b \leq 7\}$ .

**Proof.** See [1] for these designs. □

**Lemma 3.3** (i)  $\text{Adm}_1(15) \setminus \{(0, 4)\} \subseteq \text{Fine}_1(15)$ ;  
(ii)  $\text{Fine}_2(15) = \text{Adm}_2(15)$ .

**Proof.** (i) First apply Lemmas 2.1 and 2.6. Secondly, let  $(V, \mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{G})$  and  $(V, \mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{G})$  be two  $(3, 1, 3; 15)$  GDD with  $m$  blocks in common, where  $m \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 30\} \setminus \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$  (see [4]). Form a  $(3; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD on the elements of each group  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  and let  $\mathcal{B}_3$  be the collection of these blocks. Then  $\mathcal{B}_1 \cup \mathcal{B}_1 \cup \mathcal{B}_2 \cup \mathcal{B}_3$  yields a  $(15; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD of type  $(m, m)$ . Finally, see [1] for the remaining types.

(ii) Apply Lemma 2.1 and see [1] for a  $(15; 2; 3, 3)$ BTD of type  $(t, s) \in \text{Adm}_2(15)$ . □

**Lemma 3.4** (i)  $(0, 10), (1, 1) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$  for  $v = 21$  and  $27$ ;  
(ii)  $(0, 4) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$  for  $v = 21, 27, 33$  and  $39$ .

**Proof.** See [1] for these designs. □

We also need the following well-known result.

**Lemma 3.5** There exists a  $(3, 3, 3; 9)$  GDD with  $c_2$  doubly and  $c_3$  triply repeated blocks where  $(c_2, c_3) \in \{(0, 0), (9, 0), (0, 9)\}$ .

**Proof.** For the type  $(c_2, c_3) = (0, 9)$  we take three copies of a  $(3, 1, 3; 9)$  GDD which exists (see [5]). For the type  $(c_2, c_3) = (9, 0)$  we proceed as follows. Let  $(V, \mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{G})$  and  $(V, \mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{G})$  be two  $(3, 1, 3; 9)$  GDD with zero blocks in common (see [4]). Then  $(V, \mathcal{B}_1 \cup \mathcal{B}_1 \cup \mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{G})$  is a  $(3, 3, 3; 9)$  GDD with the desired structure. Finally, the following blocks yield a  $(3, 3, 3; 9)$  GDD of type  $(c_2, c_3) = (0, 0)$ . Here the groups are  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $\{4, 5, 6\}$  and  $\{7, 8, 9\}$ . (The block  $\{a, b, c\}$  is denoted by  $abc$ .)

159	357	147	267	168	258	348	249	369
359	257	347	167	368	158	248	149	269
259	157	247	367	268	358	148	349	169

□

## 4 Constructions

We start this section with the following two similar constructions.

**Construction A** Let  $w \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $w \geq 3$ , and  $\rho_2 = 1$  or  $2$ . Then there exists a  $(6w + 3; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD.

*Proof.* Let  $(V, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{G})$  be a  $(3, 1, 2; 2w)$  GDD (see for example [5]). We form the desired design on the set  $(V \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ . For each block  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  we take the blocks of a  $(3, 3, 3; 9)$  GDD on the set  $b \times \{1, 2, 3\}$  with groups  $b \times \{i\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . For each group  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  except one group, say  $g_w$ , we take the blocks of a  $(9[3]; \rho_2; 3, 3)$  frame-BTD on the set  $(g \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$  such that  $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$  are the hole elements. Finally we take the blocks of a  $(9; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD on the set  $(g_w \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ . The collection of these blocks yields a  $(6w + 3; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD on the set  $(V \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ .  $\square$

**Construction B** Let  $w \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ ,  $w \geq 5$ , and  $\rho_2 = 1$  or  $2$ . Then there exists a  $(6w + 3; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD.

*Proof.* Let  $(V, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{G})$  be a  $(3, 1, \{2, 4^*\}; 2w)$  GDD (see for example [5]). We form the desired design on the set  $(V \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ . For each block  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  we take the blocks of a  $(3, 3, 3; 9)$  GDD on the set  $b \times \{1, 2, 3\}$  with groups  $b \times \{i\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . For each group  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  with  $|g| = 2$ , we take the blocks of a  $(9[3]; \rho_2; 3, 3)$  frame-BTD on the set  $(g \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$  such that  $\{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$  are the hole elements. Finally for the group of size four, say  $g_{w-1}$ , we take the blocks of a  $(15; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD on the set  $(g_{w-1} \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ . The collection of these blocks yields a  $(6w + 3; \rho_2; 3, 3)$ BTD on the set  $(V \times \{1, 2, 3\}) \cup \{\infty_1, \infty_2, \infty_3\}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.1** Let  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ . (i) If  $v \geq 33$  then  $(0, 10), (1, 1) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$ ;

(ii) If  $v \geq 45$  then  $(0, 4) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$ .

*Proof.* (i) First note that there exists a  $(3, 1, \{6, 12^*\}; v - 3)$  GDD for all  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \geq 33$ , (see [5]). Triplicate the blocks of this GDD and use a  $(9[3]; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD for groups of size 6 and a  $(15; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD for the group of size 12. Since  $(0, 10), (1, 1) \in \text{Fine}_1(15)$  it follows that  $(0, 10), (1, 1) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$ .

(ii) Triplicate the blocks of a  $(3, 1, \{6, 18^*\}; v - 3)$  GDD which exists for all  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \geq 42$ , (see [4]). Then use a  $(9[3]; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD for groups of size 6 and a  $(21; 1; 3, 3)$ BTD for the group of size 18. Since  $(0, 4) \in \text{Fine}_1(21)$  it follows that  $(0, 4) \in \text{Fine}_1(v)$ .  $\square$



**Lemma 4.2** Let  $w \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $w \geq 3$ . Then  $\text{Fine}_1(6w + 3) = \text{Adm}_1(6w + 3)$ .

**Proof.** Applying Construction A and using designs of different types for the ingredients we can find all the types  $(t, s) \in \text{Adm}_1(6w + 3)$  except  $(t, s) \in \{(0, 10), (0, 4), (1, 1)\}$ . These types are covered by Lemmas 3.4 and 4.1. So  $\text{Adm}_1(6w + 3) \subseteq \text{Fine}_1(6w + 3)$  and using Lemmas 2.1 and 2.6 we have the equality.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3** Let  $w \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ ,  $w \geq 5$ . Then  $\text{Fine}_1(6w + 3) = \text{Adm}_1(6w + 3)$ .

**Proof.** If we apply Construction B and use designs of different types for the ingredients we can find all the types  $(t, s) \in \text{Adm}_1(6w + 3)$  except the type  $(0, 4)$ . This type is covered by Lemmas 3.4 and 4.1. So  $\text{Adm}_1(6w + 3) \subseteq \text{Fine}_1(6w + 3)$  and by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.6 we have the equality.  $\square$

So far we have proved the following result which is part (i) of the main theorem.

**Theorem 4.4** Let  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \geq 21$ . Then  $\text{Fine}_1(v) = \text{Adm}_1(v)$ .

The second part of the Main theorem is proved in the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.5** Let  $v \equiv 3, \pmod{6}$ ,  $v \geq 9$ . Then  $\text{Fine}_2(v) = \text{Adm}_2(v)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $v = 6w + 3$ . If  $w = 1$  or  $2$  apply Lemmas 3.1 and 3.3 part (ii). So let  $w \geq 3$  and proceed as follows. If  $w \equiv 0$  or  $1 \pmod{3}$  apply Construction A and if  $w \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  apply Construction B to construct a  $(v; 2; 3, 3)$ BTD. Now using designs of different types for the ingredients we find that  $\text{Fine}_2(v) \subseteq \text{Adm}_2(v)$ . So the result follows by Lemma 2.1.  $\square$

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