

Generalized Steiner Triple Systems with Group Size $g=7,8$ *

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Abstract

Generalized Steiner triple systems, $GS(2,3,n,g)$ are used to construct maximum constant weight codes over an alphabet of size $g+1$ with distance 3 and weight 3 in which each codeword has length n . The existence of $GS(2,3,n,g)$ has been solved for $g = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9$. The necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2,3,n,g)$ are $(n-1)g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, $n(n-1)g^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$, and $n \geq g+2$. In this paper, the existence of a $GS(2,3,n,g)$ for any given $g \geq 7$ is investigated. It is proved that if there exists a $GS(2,3,n,g)$ for all n , $g+2 \leq n \leq 9g+158$, satisfying the two congruences, then the necessary conditions are also sufficient. As an application it is proved that the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2,3,n,g)$ are also sufficient for $g = 7, 8$.

1 Introduction

A $(g+1)$ -ary *constant weight code* (n, w, d) is a code $C \subseteq (Z_{g+1})^n$ of length n and minimum distance d , such that every $c \in C$ has Hamming weight w . To construct a constant weight code (n, w, d) with $w = 3$ a *group divisible design* (GDD) will be used. A K -GDD is an ordered triple $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ where \mathcal{V} is a set of n elements, \mathcal{G} is a collection of subsets of \mathcal{V} called *groups* which partition \mathcal{V} and \mathcal{B} is a set of some subsets of \mathcal{V} called *blocks*, such that each block intersects each group in at most one element and that each pair of elements from distinct groups occurs together in exactly one block in \mathcal{B} , where $|B| \in K$ for any $B \in \mathcal{B}$. The group type is the multiset

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$\{|G| : G \in \mathcal{G}\}$. A k -GDD(g^n) denotes a K -GDD with n groups of size g and $K = \{k\}$. If all blocks of a GDD can be partitioned into parallel classes, then the GDD is called *resolvable* GDD and denoted by RGDD, where a parallel class is a set of blocks partitioning the element set \mathcal{V} . In a 3-GDD(g^n), let $\mathcal{V} = (Z_{g+1} \setminus \{0\}) \times (Z_{n+1} \setminus \{0\})$ with n groups $G_i \in \mathcal{G}$, $G_i = (Z_{g+1} \setminus \{0\}) \times \{i\}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$ and blocks $\{(a, i), (b, j), (c, k)\} \in \mathcal{B}$. One can construct a constant weight code $(n, 3, d)$ as stated in [7], [10]. From each block we form a codeword of length n by putting an a , b and c in positions i , j and k respectively and zeros elsewhere. This gives a constant weight code over Z_{g+1} with minimum distance 2 or 3. If the minimum distance is 3, then the code is a $(g+1)$ -ary *maximum constant weight code* (MCWC) $(n, 3, 3)$ and the 3-GDD(g^n) is called *generalized Steiner triple system*, denoted by $GS(2, 3, n, g)$. It is easy to see that a 3-GDD(g^n) is a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ iff any two intersecting blocks intersect at most two common groups of the GDD. The following result is known.

Lemma 1.1 ([7], [10]) *The following are the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$:*

- (1) $(n-1)g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$;
- (2) $n(n-1)g^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$;
- (3) $n \geq g+2$.

The necessary conditions are shown to be sufficient for $g = 2, 3$ with one exception by Etzion [7], for $g = 4, 9$ by Phelps and Yin [9], [10], for $g = 5, 6$ by Chen, Ge and Zhu [4], [5].

Lemma 1.2 ([7], [9], [10], [4], [5]) *The necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ are also sufficient for $g = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9$ with one exception of $(g, n) = (2, 6)$.*

Recently, Blake-Wilson and Phelps [3] proved that the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ are also asymptotically sufficient for any g .

Since the existence of $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ has been solved for $g \leq 6$, we need only to consider the case $g \geq 7$. For $g \geq 7$, let $T_g = \{n: \text{there exists a } GS(2, 3, n, g)\}$, $B_g = \{n: n \text{ satisfying the necessary conditions listed in Lemma 1.1}\}$, $M_g = \{n: n \in B_g, n \leq 9g+158\}$. In this paper, the following results are obtained.

Theorem 1.3 *For any $g \geq 7$, if $M_g \subset T_g$, then $B_g = T_g$. That is the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ are also sufficient.*

Theorem 1.4 *$B_7 = T_7$, that is the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ are also sufficient for $g = 7$.*

Theorem 1.5 $B_8 = T_8$, that is the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ are also sufficient for $g = 8$.

Combining Lemma 1.2, Theorem 1.4 and Theorem 1.5, it is known that the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ is completely determined for any $g \leq 9$.

2 Product Constructions

In product constructions, we will need the concept of both *holey generalized Steiner triple systems* and *disjoint incomplete Latin squares*.

A *holey group divisible design*, $K - HGDD$, is a fourtuple $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{B})$, where \mathcal{V} is a set of points, \mathcal{G} is a partition of \mathcal{V} into subsets called *groups*, $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{G}$, \mathcal{B} is a set of *blocks* such that a group and a block contain at most one common point and every pair of points from distinct groups, not both in \mathcal{H} , occurs in a unique block in \mathcal{B} , where $|B| \in K$ for any $B \in \mathcal{B}$. A k - $HGDD(g^{(n,u)})$ denotes a K - $HGDD$ with n groups of size g in \mathcal{G} , u groups in \mathcal{H} and $K = \{k\}$. A *holey generalized Steiner triple system*, $HGS(2, 3, (n, u), g)$, is a 3 - $HGDD(g^{(n,u)})$ with the property that any two intersecting blocks intersect at most two common groups.

It is easy to see that if $u = 0$ or $u = 1$, then a $HGS(2, 3, (n + u, u), g)$ is just a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ or a $GS(2, 3, n + 1, g)$ respectively.

A *Latin square* of side n , $LS(n)$, is an $n \times n$ array based on some set S of n symbols with the property that every row and every column contains every symbol exactly once. An *incomplete Latin square*, $ILS(n + a, a)$, denotes a $LS(n + a)$ "missing" a sub $LS(a)$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that the missing subsquare, or *hole*, is at the lower right corner. We say $(i, j, s) \in ILS(n + a, a)$ if the entry in the cell (i, j) is s . Let A_1, A_2 be two $ILS(n + a, a)$ s on the same symbol set. If $(i, j, s_1) \neq (i, j, s_2)$ for any $(i, j, s_1) \in A_1, (i, j, s_2) \in A_2$, then we say that A_1 and A_2 are *disjoint*. r $DILS(n + a, a)$ denotes r pairwise disjoint $ILS(n + a, a)$ s and r $DLS(n)$ denotes r pairwise disjoint $LS(n)$ s.

The following singular indirect product construction for $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ s is first stated in [4].

Lemma 2.1 (Singular Indirect Product (SIP)) *Let m, n, t, u and a be integers such that $0 \leq a \leq u < n$. Suppose the following designs exist:*

- (1) t $DILS(n + a, a)$;
- (2) a $3 - GDD(g^m)$ with the property that all blocks of the design can be partitioned into t sets S_0, S_1, \dots, S_{t-1} , such that the minimum distance in $S_r, 0 \leq r \leq t - 1$, is 3;
- (3) a $HGS(2, 3, (n + u, u), g)$.

Then there exists a $HGS(2, 3, (c, d), g)$, where $c = m(n + a) + u - a, d = ma + u - a$. Further, if there exists

(4) a $GS(2, 3, ma + u - a, g)$,
then there exists a $GS(2, 3, m(n + a) + u - a, g)$.

Lemma 2.2 ([4]) *There exist $\delta(a)$ DILS($n+a, a$), where $\delta(0) = n$ and $\delta(a) = a$ for $1 \leq a \leq n$.*

Taking $a = 0$ in Lemma 2.1, the singular direct product is then obtained, which is first appeared in [9]. From Lemma 2.2, t DLS(n) exist when $t \leq n$.

Lemma 2.3 (Singular Direct Product (SDP)) *Let m, n, t , and u be integers such that $0 \leq u < n$. Suppose $t \leq n$ and the following designs exist:*

(1) a 3-GDD(g^m) with the property that all blocks of the design can be partitioned into t sets S_0, S_1, \dots, S_{t-1} , such that the minimum distance in $S_r, 0 \leq r \leq t-1$, is 3;

(2) a HGS($2, 3, (n+u, u), g$).

Then there exists a HGS($2, 3, (mn+u, u), g$). Further, if there exists a $GS(2, 3, u, g)$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, mn+u, g)$.

Taking $u = 1$ in Lemma 2.3, one gets the Construction D in Etzion [7]

Lemma 2.4 ([7]) *Let $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ be a 3-GDD(g^m), and suppose there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$. Then there exists a $GS(2, 3, m(n-1)+1, g)$ if \mathcal{B} can be partitioned into t sets S_0, \dots, S_{t-1} , such that the minimum distance in $S_r, 0 \leq r \leq t-1$, is 3 and $t \leq n-1$.*

Taking $u = 0$ in Lemma 2.3, one gets the Construction C in Etzion [7]

Lemma 2.5 (Direct Product (DP)) *Let $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ be a 3-GDD(g^m), and suppose there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$. Then there exists a $GS(2, 3, mn, g)$ if \mathcal{B} can be partitioned into t sets S_0, \dots, S_{t-1} , such that the minimum distance in $S_r, 0 \leq r \leq t-1$, is 3 and $t \leq n$.*

Notice that the derived generalized Steiner triple system in Lemma 2.4 and Lemma 2.5 has a sub $GS(2, 3, n, g)$, we state the fact in the following.

Lemma 2.6 *Let $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ be a 3-GDD(g^m). Suppose there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$. Then there exists a HGS($2, 3, (mn, n), g$) or a HGS($2, 3, (m(n-1)+1, n), g$) if \mathcal{B} can be partitioned into t sets S_0, \dots, S_{t-1} , such that the minimum distance in $S_r, 0 \leq r \leq t-1$, is 3 and $t \leq n$ or $t \leq n-1$ respectively.*

If one uses a 3-RGDD(g^m) in the constructions, then each parallel class becomes an S_r and there are $t = \frac{g(m-1)}{2}$ such classes. The following is stated in [4].

Lemma 2.7 *If there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ and a $3-RGDD(g^m)$ with $t = \frac{g(m-1)}{2} \leq n$ or $n-1$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, mn, g)$ or a $GS(2, 3, m(n-1) + 1, g)$ respectively.*

For the existence of a $3-RGDD(g^m)$, we have the following.

Lemma 2.8 ([1]) *A $3-RGDD(g^m)$ exists iff $(m-1)g \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, $mg \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ and $g^m \neq 2^3, 2^6$ and 6^3 .*

Lemma 2.9 *For any $g \geq 7$, if there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, 3n, g)$ and a $GS(2, 3, 3(n-1) + 1, g)$. Consequently, there exists a $HGS(2, 3, (3n, n), g)$ and a $HGS(2, 3, (3(n-1) + 1, n), g)$.*

In the remainder of this section, we shall discuss a new construction to obtain t DILS from some difference matrices. Let G be an Abelian group, $|G| = n$. An $(n, k; \lambda)$ -difference matrix is a $k \times n\lambda$ matrix $D = (d_{ij})$ with entries from G , so that for each $1 \leq i < j \leq k$, the set $\{d_{it} - d_{jt} : 1 \leq t \leq n\lambda\}$ contains every element of G λ times. Let $(n, k; \lambda)$ -DM denote an $(n, k; \lambda)$ -difference matrix.

Theorem 2.10 *If there exists an $(n, 4; 1)$ -DM, then there exist n DILS $(n+a, a)$ for any a , $0 \leq a \leq n$.*

Proof. If $a = 0$, the conclusion follows from Lemma 2.2, we need only to consider the case $1 \leq a \leq n$. Let $G = \{a_0 = 0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$ be an Abelian group. By the assumption, we have two mutually orthogonal Latin squares $L_1 = (c_{ij}), L_2 = (d_{ij})$, which are generated from the $(n, 4; 1)$ -DM, $M = (m_{ij})$ as follows: For any $a_h \in G$ and $1 \leq t \leq n$, if $m_{1t} + a_h = a_i$, and $m_{2t} + a_h = a_j$, we take $c_{ij} = m_{3t} + a_h$ and $d_{ij} = m_{4t} + a_h$.

Now we construct an ILS $(n+a, a)$, denoted by A_0 , based on $G \cup \{\infty_0, \dots, \infty_{a-1}\}$ as follows. For $0 \leq k \leq a-1$, if $(a_i, a_j, s) \in L_1$ and $(a_i, a_j, a_k) \in L_2$, then $(a_i, a_j, \infty_k) \in A_0$, $(a_i, \infty_k, s) \in A_0$ and $(\infty_k, a_j, s) \in A_0$; for $a \leq k \leq n-1$, if $(a_i, a_j, s) \in L_1$ and $(a_i, a_j, a_k) \in L_2$, then $(a_i, a_j, s) \in A_0$. Let $\pi_h (0 \leq h \leq n-1)$ be a permutation on $G \cup \{\infty_0, \dots, \infty_{a-1}\}$ given by

$$\pi_h(x) = \begin{cases} x + a_h, & \text{for } x \in G, \\ x, & \text{for } x \in \{\infty_0, \dots, \infty_{a-1}\}. \end{cases}$$

From A_0 , we can construct $n-1$ ILS $(n+a, a)$ s, A_1, \dots, A_{n-1} , whose entries are defined as follows. For $1 \leq h \leq n-1$, define

$$(u, v, w_0) \in A_h \text{ if } (\pi_h(u), \pi_h(v), w_0) \in A_0.$$

Notice that for any given $u, v \in G \cup \{\infty_0, \dots, \infty_{a-1}\}$, not both in $\{\infty_0, \dots, \infty_{a-1}\}$, the entries of A_0 in the cells $(\pi_h(u), \pi_h(v)), 0 \leq h \leq n-1$, are distinct. So, A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{n-1} are pairwise disjoint. \square

The following Lemma is known.

Lemma 2.11 ([6]) *There exists a $(q, q; 1)$ -DM for any prime power q .*

Lemma 2.12 *If there exists an $(m_1, k; 1)$ -DM and an $(m_2, k; 1)$ -DM, then there exists an $(m_1 m_2, k; 1)$ -DM.*

Proof. Suppose D_i is an $(m_i, k; 1)$ -DM based on G_i , where $|G_i| = m_i, 1 \leq i \leq 2$, and $D_1 = (a_{ij})_{k \times m_1}, D_2 = (b_{ij})_{k \times m_2}$. Let

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} (a_{11}, b_{11}) & \cdots & (a_{11}, b_{1m_2}) & \cdots & (a_{1m_1}, b_{11}) & \cdots & (a_{1m_1}, b_{1m_2}) \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ (a_{k1}, b_{k1}) & \cdots & (a_{k1}, b_{km_2}) & \cdots & (a_{km_1}, b_{k1}) & \cdots & (a_{km_1}, b_{km_2}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to see that D is an $(m_1 m_2, k; 1)$ -DM based on $G_1 \times G_2$ □

Lemma 2.13 *Suppose n is a positive integer, $4|n$, then there exists an $(n, 4; 1)$ -DM.*

Proof. We can write $n = 4 \cdot 2^\alpha \cdot 3^\beta \cdot n_1$, such that the prime factor of n_1 is no less than 5. From Lemma 2.11 and Lemma 2.12, there exists an $(n_1, 4; 1)$ -DM, we need only to prove that there exists an $(n_2, 4; 1)$ -DM for $n_2 = 4 \cdot 2^\alpha \cdot 3^\beta$. We distinguish two cases

Case 1 $\beta \neq 1$. If $\beta = 0$, then $n_2 = 2^{2+\alpha}$. From Lemma 2.11, there exists an $(n_2, 4; 1)$ -DM. Otherwise $\beta \geq 2$, from Lemma 2.11 and Lemma 2.12, there exists an $(n_2, 4; 1)$ -DM;

Case 2 $\beta = 1$. $n_2 = 12 \cdot 2^\alpha$. If $\alpha < 2$, then $n_2 = 12$ or $n_2 = 24$, from [6, II Theorem 2.35, Theorem 2.43], there exists an $(n_2, 4; 1)$ -DM. Otherwise $\alpha \geq 2$, from Lemma 2.11 and Lemma 2.12, there exists an $(n_2, 4; 1)$ -DM.

□

As a corollary we have the following lemma which will be used very often.

Lemma 2.14 *Suppose n is a positive integer, $4|n$, then there exists n DILS($n + a, a$) for $0 \leq a \leq n$.*

Note added (May, 2000): New results on n DILS($n + a, a$) can be found in [11] and [8].

3 Proof of Theorem 1.3

For $g \geq 7$, let

$$f(g) = \begin{cases} 1, 3 & \text{if } g \equiv 1, 5 \pmod{6} \\ 0, 1, 3, 4 & \text{if } g \equiv 2, 4 \pmod{6} \\ 1, 3, 5 & \text{if } g \equiv 3 \pmod{6} \\ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & \text{if } g \equiv 0 \pmod{6} \end{cases}$$

$$\delta(k) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } k \text{ is even,} \\ 1, & \text{if } k \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

From Lemma 1.1, it is easy to see that the necessary conditions for the existence of a $\text{GS}(2, 3, n, g)$ are $n \equiv f(g) \pmod{6}$, and $n \geq g + 2$.

Lemma 3.1 *For $g \geq 7$, suppose $v = 54p + 6j + f(g)$, $0 \leq j \leq 8$. If $6p + 6 + \delta(f(g)) \in T_g$, $18p + 6j + f(g) - 36 \in T_g$, and $p \geq \lceil \frac{7-j}{2} \rceil$, then $v \in T_g$.*

Proof. Apply Lemma 2.1 with $m = 3, n = 12p + 12, t = g, u = 6p + 6 + \delta(f(g)), a = 6p + 3j - 21 + \lfloor \frac{f(g)}{2} \rfloor$. It is easy to check that $a \leq u < n$. Since $\lfloor \frac{f(g)}{2} \rfloor \geq 0$ and $p \geq \lceil \frac{7-j}{2} \rceil = \frac{7-j+\delta(7-j)}{2}$, it is easy to see that $a \geq 0$. From Lemma 2.14, there exist n DILS($n + a, a$) for $0 \leq a \leq n$. We further have t DILS($n + a, a$) since $t \leq u - 2 < n$. Thus the condition (1) of Lemma 2.1 is satisfied. For $g \geq 7$, a 3-RGDD(g^3) always exists by Lemma 2.8, which has g parallel classes. So, condition (2) is also satisfied. From $u \in T_g$ we apply Lemma 2.9 to obtain a HGS($2, 3, (n + u, u), g$), providing the design in condition (3). Finally, since $2\lfloor \frac{f(g)}{2} \rfloor + \delta(f(g)) = f(g)$, we know that $ma + u - a = 18p + 6j + f(g) - 36 \in T_g$, the condition (4) is satisfied. Therefore, we have the conclusion that $v = m(n + a) + u - a \in T_g$. This completes the proof. \square

Now, we are in a position to prove Theorem 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. We need to show that $M_g \subset T_g$ implies that $B_g \subset T_g$. Suppose $n \in B_g$. If $n \in M_g$, then $n \in T_g$. Otherwise, $n = 54p + 6j + f(g) > 9g + 158$, where $0 \leq j \leq 8$. We first claim that $p \geq \lceil \frac{7-j}{2} \rceil$. If not so, then $p < \lceil \frac{7-j}{2} \rceil = \frac{7-j+\delta(7-j)}{2}$. Thus $n < 189 - 21j + 27\delta(7-j) + f(g)$. Since $0 \leq j \leq 8, \delta(7-j) \leq 1, f(g) \leq 5$ and $g \geq 7$, we have $n < 221 \leq 9g + 158$, a contradiction.

Next, it is easy to see that $n > 9g + 158$ implies that $6p \geq g + 11$. Then, it is easily checked that $\alpha = 6p + 6 + \delta(f(g)) \geq g + 2, \beta = 18p + 6j + f(g) - 36 \geq g + 2$. Since $\beta \equiv f(g) \pmod{6}$, we see that $\beta \in B_g$. It is also easily verified that $\alpha \in B_g$. If we have both $\alpha \in M_g$ and $\beta \in M_g$, then Lemma 3.1 guarantees that $n \in T_g$ and the proof is completed. If at least one of α and

β is not in M_g , then we can repeat the above process taking it as n' and using new α' and β' .

After certain steps α' and β' will be small enough so that both α' and β' are in M_g . This makes both $\alpha \in T_g$ and $\beta \in T_g$, thus $n \in T_g$. This completes the proof. \square

4 Proof of Theorem 1.4

For $g = 7$, the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ become $n \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{6}$ and $n \geq 9$. It is known that there exists a $GS(2, 3, q+1, q-1)$ for any prime power q in [7, Section 4]. Taking $q = 8, 9$, we get a $GS(2, 3, 9, 7)$ and a $GS(2, 3, 10, 8)$.

For $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$, to construct a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ in Z_{7n} , it suffices to find a set of generalized base blocks, $\mathcal{A} = \{B_1, \dots, B_s\}$, $s = \frac{7(n-1)}{2}$, such that $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ forms a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$, where $\mathcal{V} = Z_{7n}$, $\mathcal{G} = \{G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{n-1}\}$, $G_i = \{i + nj : 0 \leq j \leq 6\}$, $0 \leq i \leq n-1$, and $\mathcal{B} = \{B + 3j : B \in \mathcal{A}, 0 \leq j \leq \frac{7n}{3} - 1\}$. For convenience, we write $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\}$. So, for each \mathcal{A} we need only display the corresponding S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$.

Lemma 4.1 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ for $n \in F_1$, where $F_1 = \{9, 15, 21, 33, 51\}$*

Proof. For $n = 9$, as mentioned above, there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$. For other values $n \in F_1$, with the aid of a computer, we have found a set of generalized base blocks of a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$. Here, we only list the S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$ for $n = 15$. For the remaining values n , the corresponding S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$ are listed in Appendix A.

$$n = 15, \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\},$$

$$S_0 = \{\{79, 101\}, \{41, 97\}, \{54, 55\}, \{3, 7\}, \{10, 28\}, \{9, 56\}, \{13, 69\}, \{39, 59\}, \\ \{52, 84\}, \{83, 85\}, \{18, 58\}, \{57, 63\}, \{62, 71\}, \{61, 80\}, \{81, 100\}, \\ \{2, 12\}, \{35, 77\}\};$$

$$S_1 = \{\{24, 32\}, \{5, 77\}, \{89, 94\}, \{34, 63\}, \{29, 83\}, \{18, 35\}, \{69, 103\}, \{3, 17\}, \\ \{56, 70\}, \{41, 52\}, \{14, 75\}, \{7, 90\}, \{15, 79\}, \{25, 62\}, \{43, 44\}, \\ \{53, 85\}, \{58, 67\}, \{11, 59\}, \{26, 81\}, \{12, 65\}, \{47, 60\}\};$$

$$S_2 = \{\{40, 75\}, \{78, 83\}, \{23, 39\}, \{8, 28\}, \{29, 37\}, \{42, 69\}, \{9, 81\}, \{20, 21\}, \\ \{84, 95\}, \{33, 100\}, \{68, 104\}\}. \quad \square$$

Lemma 4.2 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ for $n \in F_2 = \{13, 19, 31\}$*

Proof. With the aid of a computer, we have found a set of base blocks \mathcal{A} of a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ for $n \in F_2$.

For convenience, we write $\mathcal{A} = \{\{0, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S\}$. So, for each \mathcal{A} we need only display the corresponding S .

$$n = 13, S = \{\{15, 34\}, \{20, 41\}, \{22, 45\}, \{24, 55\}, \{25, 53\}, \{1, 33\}, \{2, 37\}, \\ \{3, 43\}, \{4, 86\}, \{6, 83\}, \{10, 84\}, \{11, 75\}, \{12, 42\}, \{18, 47\}\}.$$

$$n = 19, S = \{\{62, 93\}, \{87, 89\}, \{15, 49\}, \{88, 116\}, \{58, 108\}, \{100, 132\}, \\ \{124, 129\}, \{30, 122\}, \{56, 59\}, \{26, 90\}, \{42, 97\}, \{8, 22\}, \\ \{67, 96\}, \{21, 106\}, \{20, 80\}, \{54, 126\}, \{16, 68\}, \{10, 120\}, \\ \{47, 98\}, \{24, 63\}, \{6, 18\}\}.$$

$$n = 31, S = \{\{82, 182\}, \{95, 208\}, \{67, 190\}, \{40, 203\}, \{51, 136\}, \{97, 108\}, \\ \{78, 103\}, \{16, 106\}, \{107, 128\}, \{134, 164\}, \{70, 129\}, \{5, 131\}, \\ \{12, 22\}, \{2, 34\}, \{66, 140\}, \{197, 214\}, \{57, 72\}, \{50, 137\}, \\ \{84, 153\}, \{18, 198\}, \{118, 179\}, \{24, 76\}, \{48, 116\}, \{115, 173\}, \\ \{46, 79\}, \{144, 157\}, \{23, 49\}, \{28, 36\}, \{47, 112\}, \{43, 98\}, \\ \{39, 45\}, \{1, 42\}, \{56, 63\}, \{142, 213\}, \{29, 121\}\}. \quad \square$$

Lemma 4.3 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, q, 7)$ for any prime power $q, q \equiv 1 \pmod{6}, q \geq 43$.*

Proof. We apply Theorem 2 in [3] to obtain the result. There exists an STS(7), which can be split into 7 partial parallel classes. Let $q = 6s + 1$, since $q \geq 43$, we have $s \geq 7$. The desired idempotent Latin squares needed in the Theorem comes from Lemma 7 in [3] \square

Lemma 4.4 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ for all $v \in F_3 = \{e : e \in B_7, e \leq 73\}$.*

Proof. For $v \in F_1 \cup F_2$, the conclusion comes from Lemma 4.1 and Lemm 4.2. Since $25 = 3 \cdot 8 + 1$ and there exists a $GS(2, 3, 9, 7)$, there exists a $GS(2, 3, 25, 7)$ and a $HGS(2, 3, (25, 9), 7)$ by Lemma 2.9. For $v = 43, 49, 61, 67, 73$, the conclusion follows from Lemm 4.3. For $v = 69$, there exist 16 DILS(16 + 6, 6) and a $GS(2, 3, 21, 7)$ by Lemma 2.14 and Lemma 4.1. Apply Lemma 2.1 with $m = 3, n = 16, t = 7, u = 9, a = 6$, we get a $GS(2, 3, 69, 7)$. For the remaining values v , we write $v = 3n$ or $v = 3(n - 1) + 1$ for $n \in [9, 25]$. By Lemma 2.9, Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2, there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$. Here, we list the pairs (v, n) in Table 4.1. \square

v	n	v	n	v	n
$27 = 3 \cdot 9$	9	$37 = 3 \cdot 12 + 1$	13	$39 = 3 \cdot 13$	13
$45 = 3 \cdot 15$	15	$55 = 3 \cdot 18 + 1$	19	$57 = 3 \cdot 19$	19
$63 = 3 \cdot 21$	21				

Table 4.1 pairs (v, n) for $v \in F_3 \setminus (F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \{25, 43, 49, 61, 67, 69, 73\})$

Lemma 4.5 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ for all $v \in F_4 = \{e : e \equiv 1, 3, 7, 9 \pmod{18}, 9 \leq v \leq 219\}$.*

Proof. For $v \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{18}$, write $v = 18t + k, k = 1, 3$, where $t \leq 12$ since $v \leq 219$. Let $n = 6t + 1$, then $n \leq 73$ and a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ exists from Lemma 4.4. Since $18t + 1 = 3(n - 1) + 1$ and $18t + 3 = 3n$, a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ exists from Lemma 2.9;

For $v \equiv 7, 9 \pmod{18}$, write $v = 18t + k$, where $k = 7, 9$ and $t \leq 11$. Let $n = 6t + 3$, then $n \leq 69$ and a $GS(2, 3, n, 7)$ exists from Lemma 4.4. Since $v = 3(n - 1) + 1$ or $3n$, a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ exists from Lemma 2.9. \square

Lemma 4.6 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ for all $v \in F_5 = \{e : e \equiv 13, 15 \pmod{18}, 9 \leq v \leq 213\}$.*

Proof. We can write $v = 54h + k, k = 13, 15, 31, 33, 49, 51$. Since $v \leq 213$, we have $h \leq 3$.

For $k = 13$, if $h = 0$, from Lemma 4.4 there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$. Otherwise $1 \leq h \leq 3$. Since $6h + 3 \leq 21$ and $18h + 1 \leq 55$, from Lemma 4.4 and Lemma 2.9 there exists a $HGS(2, 3, (18h + 7, 6h + 3), 7)$, and a $GS(2, 3, 18h + 1, 7)$. From Lemma 2.14 there exist $12h + 4$ $DILS(12h + 4 + 6h - 1, 6h - 1)$. Taking $m = 3, n = 12h + 4, t = 7, u = 6h + 3, a = 6h - 1$ in Lemma 2.1, we get a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$.

For $k = 15, 31, 33, 49, 51$, if $h = 0$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 7)$ from Lemma 4.4. Otherwise, $1 \leq h \leq 3$. The discussion is similar to the case $k = 13$. We list the parameters needed in Lemma 2.1. Taking $m = 3, t = 7$. n, u and a are taken according to different k . We list the fourtuple (k, n, u, a) in Table 4.2. \square

k	n	u	a	k	n	u	a
15	$12h+4$	$6h+3$	$6h$	31	$12h+12$	$6h+7$	$6h-6$
33	$12h+12$	$6h+7$	$6h-5$	49	$12h+12$	$6h+7$	$6h+3$
51	$12h+12$	$6h+7$	$6h+4$				

Table 4.2 fourtuples (k, n, u, a) needed in Lemma 2.1

Now, we are in a position to prove Theorem 1.4.

Proof of Theorem 1.4: From Theorem 1.3, we need only to consider the values v , such that $v \in B_7, v \leq 219$. The result comes from Lemma 4.5 and Lemma 4.6. \square

5 Proof of Theorem 1.5

For $g = 8$, the necessary conditions for the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ become $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}$ and $n \geq 10$. In [5], by introducing a $K -^* GDD$, Wilson's Fundamental construction can be used to construct generalized Steiner triple systems.

Definition 5.1 *A $K - GDD$ is said to have "star" property and denoted by $K -^* GDD$ if any two intersecting blocks intersect at most two common groups.*

With this definition a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ is just the same as a $3 -^* GDD(g^n)$. Using a $K -^* GDD$ as a master GDD, the well known Wilson's Fundamental Construction can be used to construct $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ s, which we state below.

Lemma 5.2 (Weighting) *Let $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ be a $K -^* GDD$ (the master GDD) with groups G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t . Suppose there exists a function $w: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow Z^+ \cup \{0\}$ (a weighting function) which has the property that for each block $B = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\} \in \mathcal{B}$ there exists a $3 -^* GDD$ of group type $(w(x_1), w(x_2), \dots, w(x_k))$ (such a GDD is an "ingredient" GDD). Then there exists a $3 -^* GDD$ of group type $(\sum_{x \in G_1} w(x), \sum_{x \in G_2} w(x), \dots, \sum_{x \in G_t} w(x))$.*

Lemma 5.3 ([5]) *If there exists a $K -^* GDD(g^n)$, and there exists a $GS(2, 3, k, h)$ for any $k \in K$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, gh)$.*

Lemma 5.4 *There exists a $4 -^* GDD(4^n)$ for $n \in E_1$, where $E_1 = \{13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 31, 58\}$.*

Proof. For each $n \in E_1$, with the aid of a computer, we have found a set of base blocks \mathcal{A} for such a $4 -^* GDD(4^n)$ in Z_{4n} with the groups $G_i = \{i + jn : 0 \leq j \leq 3\}, 0 \leq i \leq n - 1$, which is listed as follows.

$n = 13, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 3, 11\}, \{0, 4, 16, 25\}, \{0, 5, 19, 37\}, \{0, 6, 23, 30\}\}.$

$n = 16, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 3, 7\}, \{0, 5, 18, 39\}, \{0, 8, 17, 44\}, \{0, 10, 33, 52\}, \{0, 11, 26, 40\}\}.$

$n = 19, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 3, 7\}, \{0, 5, 13, 36\}, \{0, 9, 24, 42\}, \{0, 10, 26, 54\}, \{0, 11, 41, 62\}, \{0, 12, 29, 49\}\}.$

$n = 22, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 9, 55\}, \{0, 2, 19, 72\}, \{0, 3, 26, 41\}, \{0, 4, 10, 68\}, \{0, 5, 45, 56\}, \{0, 7, 36, 67\}, \{0, 12, 25, 39\}\}.$

$n = 25, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 32, 60\}, \{0, 2, 76, 90\}, \{0, 3, 61, 80\}, \{0, 4, 17, 66\}, \{0, 5, 57, 84\}, \{0, 6, 35, 91\}, \{0, 7, 53, 89\}, \{0, 8, 30, 63\}\}.$

$n = 31, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 78, 106\}, \{0, 2, 39, 56\}, \{0, 3, 67, 89\}, \{0, 4, 73, 83\}, \{0, 5, 32, 66\}, \{0, 6, 59, 80\}, \{0, 8, 84, 117\}, \{0, 9, 81, 104\}, \{0, 11, 24, 99\}, \{0, 12, 26, 42\}\}.$

$n = 58, \mathcal{A} = \{\{0, 1, 41, 118\}, \{0, 2, 65, 86\}, \{0, 3, 52, 125\}, \{0, 4, 54, 101\},$

$\{0, 5, 95, 134\}, \{0, 6, 25, 89\}, \{0, 7, 127, 205\}, \{0, 8, 31, 204\},$
 $\{0, 9, 70, 132\}, \{0, 10, 45, 82\}, \{0, 11, 85, 177\}, \{0, 12, 79, 212\},$
 $\{0, 13, 46, 176\}, \{0, 14, 152, 203\}, \{0, 15, 96, 126\}, \{0, 16, 87, 144\},$
 $\{0, 17, 93, 141\}, \{0, 22, 60, 179\}, \{0, 24, 188, 214\}.$ \square

As mentioned in Section 4, there exists a $GS(2, 3, 10, 8)$, by Lemma 1.2 we know that there exists a $GS(2, 3, 4, 2)$. So, by Lemma 5.3 and Lemma 5.4 we have the following.

Lemma 5.5 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, n, 8)$ for $n \in E_1 \cup \{10\}$.*

To construct a $GS(2, 3, n, 8)$ in Z_{8n} for some $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, it suffices to find a set of generalized base blocks, $\mathcal{A} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_s\}$, $s = 4(n-1)$, such that $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B})$ forms a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$, where $\mathcal{V} = Z_{8n}$, $\mathcal{G} = \{G_i : 0 \leq i \leq n-1\}$, $G_i = \{i + jn : 0 \leq j \leq 7\}$, $0 \leq i \leq n-1$, and $\mathcal{B} = \{B + 3i : B \in \mathcal{A}, 0 \leq i \leq \frac{8n}{3} - 1\}$.

Lemma 5.6 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, n, g)$ for each $n \in E_2$, where $E_2 = \{12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 33, 42, 51\}$.*

Proof. For each $n \in E_2$, with the aid of a computer, we have found a set of generalized base blocks \mathcal{A} . For convenience, we can write $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\}$. So, for each \mathcal{A} we need only display the corresponding S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$. Here we only list the S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$ for $n = 12$, for other values, the corresponding S_i , $0 \leq i \leq 2$ are listed in Appendix B (In order to save space, we omit Appendix B, the interested reader may contact the authors for a copy).

$n = 12, \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\},$
 $S_0 = \{\{18, 53\}, \{69, 85\}, \{2, 82\}, \{49, 64\}, \{22, 80\}, \{5, 37\}, \{3, 50\}, \{40, 71\},$
 $\{21, 52\}, \{41, 62\}, \{1, 90\}, \{13, 38\}, \{33, 87\}, \{26, 79\}, \{17, 34\}\};$
 $S_1 = \{\{50, 69\}, \{36, 56\}, \{64, 93\}, \{68, 77\}, \{67, 86\}, \{72, 87\}, \{2, 58\}, \{5, 19\},$
 $\{39, 94\}, \{7, 9\}, \{6, 38\}, \{14, 51\}, \{10, 52\}, \{8, 47\}, \{27, 78\}\};$
 $S_2 = \{\{4, 56\}, \{37, 64\}, \{33, 76\}, \{8, 9\}, \{30, 69\}, \{70, 90\}, \{24, 68\}, \{10, 83\},$
 $\{12, 42\}, \{15, 88\}, \{47, 80\}, \{71, 75\}, \{7, 28\}, \{84, 95\}\}.$ \square

Lemma 5.7 *There exists a 3-GDD(8^m) for $m = 3, 4, 6$ and 7 with the property that all blocks of the design can be partitioned into t sets S_0, S_1, \dots, S_{t-1} such that $t \leq 8$ for $m = 3, 6$, $t \leq 4$ for $m = 4, 7$, and the minimum distance in S_r , $0 \leq r \leq t-1$, is 3*

Proof. For $m = 3$, from Lemm2.8, there exists a 3-RGDD(8^3), which has 8 parallel classes. By Lemma 1.2 there exists a $GS(2, 3, 4, 2)$ and a

$GS(2, 3, 7, 2)$. In [7], a $3-GDD(2^6)$ is presented, in which all blocks can be partitioned into 2 sets S_0, S_1 , such that the minimum distance in S_0, S_1 , is 3. Use these designs as master GDDs in Wilson's Fundamental construction and give weight four to each element, we get a $3-GDD(8^m)$ for $m = 4, 7, 6$ respectively. Since a $3-RGDD(4^3)$ exists, it is not difficult to see that the resultant designs are desired ones. \square

Since the existence of a $GS(2, 3, n, 8)$ implies that $n \geq 10$, from Lemma 5.7, it is certain that for $g = 8$, the m in DP and SDP can be chosen to be 3, 4, 6 and 7. So by Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.4 we have the following.

Lemma 5.8 *If there exists a $GS(2, 3, n, 8)$, then there exists a $GS(2, 3, mn, 8)$ and a $GS(2, 3, m(n - 1) + 1, 8)$, where $m = 3, 4, 6$ and 7.*

Lemma 5.9 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, g)$ for all $v \in E_3$, where $E_3 = \{e : e \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}, e \leq 76\}$.*

Proof. For $v \in E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{10\}$, the conclusion comes from Lemma 5.5 and Lemm 5.6. For the remaining values v , we can write $v = mn$ or $v = m(n - 1) + 1$ for some $m \in \{3, 4, 6, 7\}$ and $n \in E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{10\}$. By Lemma 5.5, Lemma 5.6 and Lemma 5.8, there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$. Here, we list the triples (v, m, n) in Table 5.1. \square

v	m	n	v	m	n	v	m	n
$28 = 3 \cdot 9 + 1$	3	10	$30 = 3 \cdot 10$	3	10	$34 = 3 \cdot 11 + 1$	3	12
$36 = 3 \cdot 12$	3	12	$37 = 3 \cdot 12 + 1$	3	13	$39 = 3 \cdot 13$	3	13
$40 = 4 \cdot 10$	4	10	$43 = 3 \cdot 14 + 1$	3	15	$45 = 3 \cdot 15$	3	15
$46 = 3 \cdot 15 + 1$	3	16	$48 = 3 \cdot 16$	3	16	$49 = 4 \cdot 12 + 1$	4	13
$52 = 3 \cdot 17 + 1$	3	18	$54 = 3 \cdot 18$	3	18	$55 = 3 \cdot 18 + 1$	3	19
$57 = 3 \cdot 19$	3	19	$60 = 4 \cdot 15$	4	15	$61 = 4 \cdot 15 + 1$	4	16
$63 = 3 \cdot 21$	3	21	$64 = 4 \cdot 16$	4	16	$66 = 3 \cdot 22$	3	22
$67 = 6 \cdot 11 + 1$	6	12	$69 = 4 \cdot 17 + 1$	4	18	$70 = 7 \cdot 10$	7	10
$72 = 3 \cdot 24$	3	24	$73 = 3 \cdot 24 + 1$	3	25	$75 = 3 \cdot 25$	3	25
$76 = 4 \cdot 18$	4	18						

Table 5.1 triples (v, m, n) for $v \in E_3 \setminus (E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{10\})$

Lemma 5.10 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$ for all $v \in E_4$, where $E_4 = \{e : e \equiv 0, 1, 3, 7 \pmod{9}, 10 \leq v \leq 228\}$.*

Proof. For $v \equiv 0, 1, 3 \pmod{9}$, write $v = 9t + k$, where $k = 0, 1, 3$. If $t \leq 3$, the result follows from Lemma 5.9. Otherwise, $t \geq 4$. Let $n = 3t$, then $v = 3n, 3n + 1$ or $3(n + 1)$. Since $v \leq 228$, we have $4 \leq t \leq 25$, hence $n \leq 75, n + 1 \leq 76$. Notice that $n \in B_8$ and $n + 1 \in B_8$, by Lemma 5.8 and Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$.

For $v \equiv 7 \pmod{9}$, write $v = 9t + 7$. If $t \leq 2$, the result follows from Lemma 5.9. Otherwise, $t \geq 3$. Let $n = 3t + 3$, then $v = 3(n - 1) + 1$. Since $v \leq 228$, we have $t \leq 24$, hence $n \leq 75$. Notice that $n \in B_8$, by Lemma 5.8 and Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$. \square

Lemma 5.11 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$ for all $v \in E_5$, where $E_5 = \{e: e \equiv 4, 6, 13, 24, 31, 33 \pmod{36}, 10 \leq v \leq 229\}$.*

Proof. Write $v = 36t + k, k = 4, 6, 13, 24, 31, 33$. If $t \leq 1$, the result comes from Lemma 5.9. For $t \geq 2$, notice $v \leq 229$, we can write $v = mn$ or $v = mn + 1$ for some $m \in \{4, 6\}$ and $n \in B_8, n \leq 58$. From Lemma 5.8 and Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$. here we list the fourtuples (k, v, m, n) in Table 5.2 . \square

k	v	m	n	k	v	m	n
4	$v = 4 \cdot (9t + 1)$	4	$9t + 1$	6	$v = 6 \cdot (6t + 1)$	6	$6t + 1$
13	$v = 4 \cdot (9t + 3) + 1$	4	$9t + 4$	24	$v = 6 \cdot (6t + 4)$	6	$6t + 4$
31	$v = 6 \cdot (6t + 5) + 1$	6	$6t + 6$	33	$v = 4 \cdot (9t + 8) + 1$	4	$9t + 9$

Table 5.2 fourtuples (k, v, m, n) for Lemma 5.11

Lemma 5.12 *There exists a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$ for all $v \in E_6$, where $E_6 = \{e: e \equiv 15, 22 \pmod{36}, 10 \leq v \leq 229\}$.*

Proof. For $v \equiv 15 \pmod{36}$, write $v = 36e + 15$. If $e = 1$, then $v = 51$, from Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, 51, 8)$. If $e = 2$, then $v = 87$. Apply Lemma 2.1 with $m = 3, n = 24, t = 8, u = 13, a = 1$. There exist 24 $DILS(24 + 1, 1)$ by Lemma 2.14, and there exist t $DILS(24 + 1, 1)$ too, condition (1) is satisfied. As mentioned before, condition (2) is also satisfied. Since there exists a $GS(2, 3, 13, 8)$ by Lemma 5.9, we get a $HGS(2, 3, (37, 13), 8)$ by Lemma 2.9, thus condition (3) is satisfied. There exists a $GS(2, 3, 15, 8)$ by Lemma 5.9, this is the design desired in condition (4). So, we obtain a $GS(2, 3, 87, 8)$. For $e \geq 3, 3e - 4 \geq 5$. Apply Lemma 2.1 with $m = 4, n = 6e + 6, t = 4, u = 3e + 3, a = 3e - 4$. From Lemma 2.2, there exist $3e - 4$ $DILS(n + a, a)$. Therefore, there exist t $DILS(n + a, a)$, this is the condition (1). Condition (2) is satisfied by Lemm 5.7. Since $v \leq 229$, we have $3 \leq e \leq 5$, hence $12 \leq u \leq 18$. From Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, u, 8)$. So there exists a $HGS(2, 3, (n + u, u), 8)$, providing the design needed in condition (3). Since $27 \leq ma + u - a = 12e - 9 \leq 51$, by Lemma 5.9, there exists a $GS(2, 3, ma + u - a, 8)$. This is the design needed in condition (4). Thus, we obtain a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$.

For $v \equiv 22 \pmod{36}$, write $v = 36e + 22$. If $e \leq 1$, the result follows from Lemma 5.9. Otherwise, $e \geq 2$. Just as we did in the case $v \equiv 15 \pmod{36}$, apply Lemma 2.1 with $m = 4, n = 6e + 6, t = 4, u = 3e + 4, a = 3e - 2$, we obtain a $GS(2, 3, v, 8)$. \square

Combining Lemma 5.11 and Lemma 5.12, we have the following.

Lemma 5.13 *There exists a GS(2, 3, v, 8) for all $v \in E_7$, where $E_7 = \{e: e \equiv 4, 6 \pmod{9}, 10 \leq v \leq 229\}$.*

Now, we are in a position to prove Theorem 1.5.

Proof of Theorem 1.5: From Theorem 1.3, we need only to consider the values v , such that $v \in B_8, v \leq 229$, the result comes from Lemma 5.10 and Lemma 5.13. \square

Appendix A.

$$n = 21, \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\},$$

$$S_0 = \{\{70, 110\}, \{98, 104\}, \{51, 119\}, \{30, 79\}, \{107, 120\}, \{48, 80\}, \{41, 75\}, \\ \{55, 141\}, \{22, 130\}, \{5, 36\}, \{40, 97\}, \{108, 122\}, \{11, 56\}, \{53, 54\}, \\ \{90, 114\}, \{15, 73\}, \{9, 124\}, \{3, 65\}\};$$

$$S_1 = \{\{8, 120\}, \{12, 121\}, \{23, 79\}, \{56, 113\}, \{71, 135\}, \{31, 114\}, \{105, 107\}, \\ \{6, 66\}, \{9, 34\}, \{35, 54\}, \{38, 52\}, \{14, 111\}, \{37, 119\}, \{3, 49\}, \\ \{30, 116\}, \{82, 143\}, \{48, 137\}, \{11, 13\}, \{5, 86\}, \{63, 81\}, \{19, 20\}, \\ \{94, 103\}, \{60, 129\}, \{57, 133\}, \{45, 61\}, \{7, 27\}, \{15, 25\}\};$$

$$S_2 = \{\{61, 137\}, \{48, 49\}, \{29, 129\}, \{11, 62\}, \{41, 85\}, \{28, 125\}, \{17, 55\}, \\ \{121, 124\}, \{82, 123\}, \{126, 133\}, \{6, 10\}, \{76, 111\}, \{38, 141\}, \{75, 106\}, \\ \{24, 116\}, \{12, 78\}, \{18, 70\}, \{9, 54\}, \{19, 77\}, \{20, 90\}, \{95, 118\}, \\ \{22, 97\}, \{120, 132\}, \{32, 101\}, \{100, 146\}\}.$$

$$n = 33, \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i\},$$

$$S_0 = \{\{69, 181\}, \{204, 211\}, \{39, 177\}, \{140, 220\}, \{59, 73\}, \{12, 77\}, \{46, 124\}, \\ \{8, 31\}, \{47, 130\}, \{176, 196\}, \{114, 135\}, \{29, 152\}, \{62, 84\}, \{144, 205\}, \\ \{23, 223\}, \{44, 155\}, \{45, 203\}, \{81, 137\}, \{9, 175\}, \{52, 75\}, \{2, 188\}, \\ \{60, 228\}, \{154, 172\}, \{94, 207\}, \{15, 120\}, \{195, 214\}, \{18, 38\}, \{86, 157\}, \\ \{90, 103\}, \{101, 227\}, \{78, 95\}, \{113, 151\}, \{26, 42\}, \{134, 190\}, \{6, 49\}, \\ \{149, 226\}, \{55, 160\}, \{48, 217\}\};$$

$$S_1 = \{\{164, 181\}, \{22, 167\}, \{118, 190\}, \{47, 134\}, \{14, 172\}, \{50, 71\}, \{113, 222\}, \\ \{35, 99\}, \{5, 117\}, \{26, 174\}, \{69, 91\}, \{206, 216\}, \{40, 197\}, \{136, 203\}, \\ \{89, 123\}, \{87, 144\}, \{65, 126\}, \{54, 105\}, \{124, 125\}, \{112, 156\}, \{56, 107\}, \\ \{148, 229\}, \{37, 204\}, \{162, 192\}, \{93, 191\}, \{95, 96\}, \{62, 163\}, \{29, 178\}, \\ \{111, 145\}, \{7, 147\}, \{132, 185\}, \{46, 104\}, \{150, 217\}, \{28, 44\}, \{170, 195\}, \\ \{13, 76\}, \{135, 139\}, \{20, 25\}, \{122, 153\}, \{30, 98\}, \{3, 202\}\};$$

$$S_2 = \{\{9, 157\}, \{44, 90\}, \{69, 141\}, \{13, 61\}, \{8, 97\}, \{94, 196\}, \{181, 219\}, \\ \{185, 193\}, \{32, 222\}, \{65, 118\}, \{39, 143\}, \{71, 211\}, \{104, 218\}, \{108, 197\}, \\ \{153, 154\}, \{54, 162\}, \{52, 226\}, \{11, 115\}, \{34, 123\}, \{29, 228\}, \{56, 126\}, \\ \{124, 133\}, \{60, 95\}, \{21, 46\}, \{4, 51\}, \{15, 117\}, \{149, 161\}, \{42, 173\}, \\ \{137, 176\}, \{20, 105\}, \{148, 158\}, \{80, 83\}, \{26, 183\}\}.$$

$$n = 51, \mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{ \{i, x, y\} : \{x, y\} \in S_i \},$$

$$S_0 = \{ \{250, 261\}, \{100, 289\}, \{224, 262\}, \{43, 246\}, \{194, 241\}, \{131, 167\}, \{209, 336\}, \\ \{237, 331\}, \{84, 311\}, \{149, 348\}, \{182, 186\}, \{268, 354\}, \{217, 267\}, \{218, 221\}, \\ \{44, 343\}, \{113, 291\}, \{276, 317\}, \{199, 270\}, \{314, 339\}, \{53, 210\}, \{76, 150\}, \\ \{216, 322\}, \{140, 164\}, \{52, 247\}, \{233, 287\}, \{27, 67\}, \{38, 297\}, \{20, 48\}, \\ \{169, 232\}, \{45, 257\}, \{65, 144\}, \{188, 240\}, \{126, 324\}, \{55, 274\}, \{39, 127\}, \\ \{101, 266\}, \{83, 260\}, \{128, 248\}, \{222, 269\}, \{28, 103\}, \{138, 180\}, \{104, 123\}, \\ \{166, 342\}, \{6, 19\}, \{152, 326\}, \{30, 192\}, \{46, 133\}, \{58, 74\}, \{183, 319\}, \\ \{163, 275\}, \{36, 73\}, \{31, 347\}, \{189, 193\}, \{302, 335\}, \{110, 238\}, \{328, 333\} \};$$

$$S_1 = \{ \{104, 265\}, \{183, 313\}, \{275, 350\}, \{114, 186\}, \{38, 286\}, \{18, 175\}, \{11, 43\}, \\ \{123, 238\}, \{248, 257\}, \{241, 355\}, \{224, 254\}, \{135, 341\}, \{21, 191\}, \{68, 80\}, \\ \{128, 129\}, \{242, 335\}, \{101, 164\}, \{78, 132\}, \{66, 83\}, \{181, 237\}, \{24, 153\}, \\ \{130, 253\}, \{138, 206\}, \{203, 232\}, \{7, 98\}, \{140, 251\}, \{239, 356\}, \{42, 332\}, \\ \{112, 144\}, \{37, 182\}, \{147, 236\}, \{193, 348\}, \{10, 208\}, \{89, 214\}, \{268, 280\}, \\ \{95, 337\}, \{131, 304\}, \{19, 100\}, \{287, 294\}, \{26, 261\}, \{331, 333\}, \{210, 328\}, \\ \{93, 344\}, \{16, 213\}, \{65, 81\}, \{171, 249\}, \{99, 207\}, \{155, 302\}, \{61, 234\}, \\ \{137, 187\}, \{40, 109\}, \{63, 202\}, \{32, 47\}, \{150, 162\}, \{62, 148\}, \{41, 274\}, \\ \{25, 297\}, \{301, 309\}, \{134, 152\}, \{290, 351\}, \{54, 342\} \};$$

$$S_2 = \{ \{197, 300\}, \{234, 263\}, \{145, 173\}, \{139, 172\}, \{22, 191\}, \{46, 333\}, \{288, 351\}, \\ \{314, 353\}, \{240, 352\}, \{114, 357\}, \{241, 289\}, \{37, 303\}, \{23, 152\}, \{117, 278\}, \\ \{60, 94\}, \{142, 283\}, \{87, 340\}, \{75, 218\}, \{64, 221\}, \{264, 287\}, \{238, 282\}, \\ \{186, 279\}, \{50, 92\}, \{151, 286\}, \{267, 346\}, \{254, 348\}, \{204, 309\}, \{184, 316\}, \\ \{39, 236\}, \{79, 354\}, \{120, 345\}, \{146, 337\}, \{76, 243\}, \{15, 161\}, \{168, 225\}, \\ \{78, 100\}, \{160, 302\}, \{86, 166\}, \{251, 310\}, \{116, 181\}, \{7, 62\}, \{211, 307\}, \\ \{148, 327\}, \{71, 137\}, \{273, 274\}, \{222, 297\}, \{97, 144\}, \{133, 134\}, \{101, 332\}, \\ \{158, 355\}, \{13, 281\}, \{183, 325\}, \{187, 253\}, \{51, 252\}, \{66, 324\}, \{55, 156\}, \\ \{89, 123\}, \{115, 174\} \}.$$

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