

Article

Cyclic Decompositions of λK_n into LWO Graphs

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Abstract: In this paper, we identify LWO graphs, find the minimum λ for decomposition of λK_n into these graphs, and show that for all viable values of λ , the necessary conditions are sufficient for LWO–decompositions using cyclic decompositions from base graphs.

Keywords: cyclic graph decompositions, LWO graph

1. Introduction

Decompositions of graphs into subgraphs is a well-known classical problem. For an excellent survey on graph decompositions, see [1]. Recently, several people including Chan [4], El-Zanati, Lapchinda, Tangsupphathawat and Wannasit [5], Hein [6–9], Hurd [13], Malick [14], Sarvate [10–12], Winter [16, 17] and Zhang [18] have results on decomposing λK_n into multi-graphs. In fact, similar decompositions have been attempted earlier in various papers (see [15]). Ternary designs also provide such decompositions (see [2, 3]).

Hein [6–9] showed how to decompose λK_n into LO, LE, LW, OW, LOW and OLW graphs. In this paper’s extension of the previous work, we show how to decompose λK_n into LWO graphs. Though the main technique used is to construct appropriate base graphs and to develop them cyclically, an additional approach is needed in this type of decomposition.

2. Preliminaries

For simplicity of notation, we use the “alphabetic labeling” used in [6–12, 16–18]:

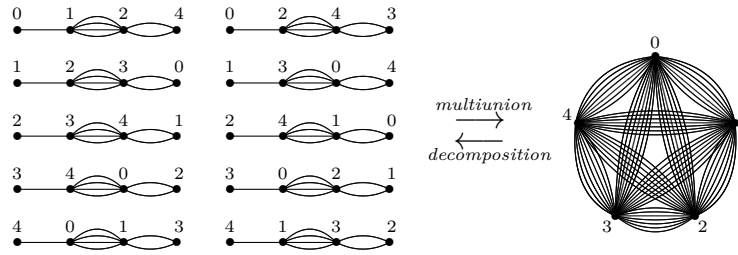
Definition 1. An LWO graph (denoted (a, b, c, d)) on $V = \{a, b, c, d\}$ is a graph with 7 edges where the frequencies of edges $\{a, b\}$, $\{b, c\}$ and $\{c, d\}$ are 1, 4 and 2 (respectively).



Definition 2. For positive integers $n \geq 4$ and $\lambda \geq 4$, an LWO–decomposition of λK_n (denoted $LWO(n, \lambda)$) is a collection of LWO graphs such that the multiunion of their edge sets contains λ copies of all edges in a K_n .

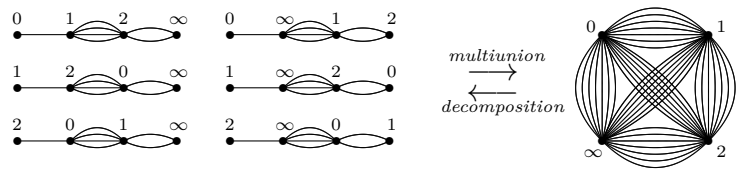
One of the powerful techniques to construct combinatorial designs is based on *difference sets* and *difference families* (see [19] for details). This technique is modified to achieve our decompositions of λK_n — in general, we exhibit the *base graphs*, which can be developed to obtain the decomposition.

Example 1. Considering the set of points to be $V = \mathbb{Z}_5$, the LWO base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 4)$ and $(0, 2, 4, 3)$ when developed modulo 5 constitute an $LWO(5, 7)$.



We note that special attention is needed with base graphs containing the “dummy element” ∞ . The non- ∞ elements are developed, while ∞ is simply rewritten each time.

Example 2. Considering the set of points to be $V = \mathbb{Z}_3 \cup \{\infty\}$, the LWO base graphs $(0, 1, 2, \infty)$ and $(0, \infty, 1, 2)$ when developed modulo 3 constitute an $LWO(4, 7)$.



3. LWO–Decompositions

We first address the minimum values of λ in an $LWO(n, \lambda)$. Recall that $\lambda \geq 4$.

Theorem 1. Let $n \geq 4$. The minimum values of λ for which an $LWO(n, \lambda)$ could exist are $\lambda = 4$ when $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{7}$ and $\lambda = 7$ when $n \not\equiv 0, 1 \pmod{7}$.

Proof. Since there are $\frac{\lambda n(n-1)}{2}$ edges in a λK_n , and 7 edges in an LWO graph, we must have that $\lambda n(n-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{14}$ (where $n \geq 4$ and $\lambda \geq 4$) for LWO–decompositions. The result follows from cases on $n \pmod{14}$. □

We are now in a position to prove the main claim of the paper. We first remark that an LWO graph has 4 vertices; that is, we consider $n \geq 4$. We use difference sets to achieve our decompositions of λK_n . In general, we exhibit the base graphs, which can be developed (modulo either n or $n - 1$) to obtain the decomposition. We also note that the frequency of the edges is fixed by position, as per the LWO graph.

Theorem 2. The minimum number copies of K_n as given in Theorem 1 can be decomposed into LWO graphs.

Proof. Let $n \geq 4$. We proceed by cases on $n \pmod{14}$.

If $n = 14t$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t-1} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t, 4)$ is $\frac{4(14t)(14t-1)}{14} = 4t(14t - 1)$. Thus, we need $4t$ base graphs (modulo $14t - 1$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t - 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t - 1$. For the first four base graphs, we use $(\infty, 0, 3t, 6t - 1)$, $(\infty, 0, 3t + 1, 6t)$, $(\infty, 0, 3t + 2, 6t)$ and $(\infty, 0, 3t + 3, 6t + 1)$. We also use the $4t - 4$ base graphs $(0, 1, 3t + 5, 6t + 2)$, $(0, 1, 3t + 6, 6t + 3)$, $(0, 1, 3t + 7, 6t + 3)$, $(0, 1, 3t + 8, 6t + 4)$, $(0, 2, 3t + 10, 6t + 5)$, $(0, 2, 3t + 11, 6t + 6)$, $(0, 2, 3t + 12, 6t + 6)$, $(0, 2, 3t + 13, 6t + 7)$, \dots , $(0, t - 1, 8t - 5, 9t - 4)$, $(0, t - 1, 8t - 4, 9t - 3)$, $(0, t - 1, 8t - 3, 9t - 3)$ and $(0, t - 1, 8t - 2, 9t - 2)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t, 4)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 1$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+1} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 1, 4)$ is $\frac{4(14t+1)(14t)}{14} = 4t(14t + 1)$. Thus, we need $4t$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 1$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t$. We use the base graphs

$(0, 1, 3t+2, 6t+2)$, $(0, 1, 3t+3, 6t+3)$, $(0, 1, 3t+4, 6t+3)$, $(0, 1, 3t+5, 6t+4)$, $(0, 2, 3t+7, 6t+5)$, $(0, 2, 3t+8, 6t+6)$, $(0, 2, 3t+9, 6t+6)$, $(0, 2, 3t+10, 6t+7)$, \dots , $(0, t, 8t-3, 9t-1)$, $(0, t, 8t-2, 9t)$, $(0, t, 8t-1, 9t)$ and $(0, t, 8t, 9t+1)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+1, 4)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 2$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+1} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+2, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+2)(14t+1)}{14} = (7t+1)(14t+1)$. Thus, we need $7t+1$ base graphs (modulo $14t+1$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, \infty, 1, 7t+1)$ and $(0, 7t, 14t, \infty)$. We also use the $7t-1$ base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 7t+1)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t+2)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t+3)$, \dots , $(0, 7t-3, 14t-6, 14t-3)$, $(0, 7t-2, 14t-4, 14t-2)$ and $(0, 7t-1, 14t-2, 14t-1)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+2, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 3$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+3} . The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+3, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+3)(14t+2)}{14} = (7t+1)(14t+3)$. Thus, we need $7t+1$ base graphs (modulo $14t+3$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+3$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+1$. For the first three base graphs, we use $(0, 7t+1, 7t+2, 14t+2)$, $(0, 7t, 14t+1, 14t+2)$ and $(0, 1, 7t+1, 14t+2)$. We also use the $7t-2$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, 7t+3)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t+4)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t+5)$, \dots , $(0, 7t-3, 14t-6, 14t-2)$, $(0, 7t-2, 14t-4, 14t-1)$ and $(0, 7t-1, 14t-2, 14t)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+3, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 4$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+3} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+4, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+4)(14t+3)}{14} = (7t+2)(14t+3)$. Thus, we need $7t+2$ base graphs (modulo $14t+3$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+3$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+1$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, \infty, 1, 7t+2)$ and $(0, 7t+1, 14t+2, \infty)$. We also use the $7t$ base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 7t+2)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t+3)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t+4)$, \dots , $(0, 7t-2, 14t-4, 14t-1)$, $(0, 7t-1, 14t-2, 14t)$ and $(0, 7t, 14t, 14t+1)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+4, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 5$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+5} . The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+5, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+5)(14t+4)}{14} = (7t+2)(14t+5)$. Thus, we need $7t+2$ base graphs (modulo $14t+5$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+5$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+2$. When $t = 0$ (that is, when $n = 5$), we use the base graphs $(0, 2, 3, 4)$ and $(1, 0, 2, 4)$. When $t \geq 1$ (that is, when $n \geq 19$), we use the base graphs $(0, 7t+2, 7t+3, 14t+4)$, $(0, 7t+1, 14t+3, 14t+4)$ and $(0, 1, 7t+2, 14t+4)$ as well as the $7t-1$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, 7t+4)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t+5)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t+6)$, \dots , $(0, 7t-2, 14t-4, 14t)$, $(0, 7t-1, 14t-2, 14t+1)$ and $(0, 7t, 14t, 14t+2)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+5, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 6$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+5} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+6, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+6)(14t+5)}{14} = (7t+3)(14t+5)$. Thus, we need $7t+3$ base graphs (modulo $14t+5$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+5$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+2$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, \infty, 1, 7t+3)$ and $(0, 7t+2, 14t+4, \infty)$. We also use the $7t+1$ base graph(s) $(0, 1, 2, 7t+3)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t+4)$, \dots , $(0, 7t, 14t, 14t+2)$ and $(0, 7t+1, 14t+2, 14t+3)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+6, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 7$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+6} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+7, 4)$ is $\frac{4(14t+7)(14t+6)}{14} = (4t+2)(14t+6)$. Thus, we need $4t+2$ base graphs (modulo $14t+6$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+6$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+3$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, 7t+3, 14t+5, \infty)$ and $(0, 7t+3, 14t+4, \infty)$. We also use the $4t$ base graphs $(0, 1, 5t+1, 10t+2)$, $(0, 1, 5t, 10t+1)$, $(0, 1, 5t-1, 10t+1)$, $(0, 1, 5t-2, 10t)$, $(0, 2, 5t-2, 10t+1)$, $(0, 2, 5t-3, 10t)$, $(0, 2, 5t-4, 10t)$, $(0, 2, 5t-5, 10t-1)$, \dots , $(0, t, 2t+4, 9t+3)$, $(0, t, 2t+3, 9t+2)$, $(0, t, 2t+2, 9t+2)$ and $(0, t, 2t+1, 9t+1)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t+7, 4)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 8$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+8} . The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t+8, 4)$ is $\frac{4(14t+8)(14t+7)}{14} = (4t+2)(14t+8)$. Thus, we need $4t+2$ base graphs (modulo $14t+8$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t+8$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t+4$. When

$t = 0$ (that is, when $n = 8$), we use the base graphs $(0, 4, 5, 2)$ and $(0, 4, 6, 3)$. When $t \geq 1$ (that is, when $n \geq 22$), we use the base graphs $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 5, 7t + 8)$ and $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 6, 7t + 9)$ as well as $(0, 7t + 3, 13t + 6, 13t + 10)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 13t + 5, 13t + 9)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 13t + 4, 13t + 9)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 13t + 3, 13t + 8)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 13t + 1, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 13t, 13t + 6)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 13t - 1, 13t + 6)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 13t - 2, 13t + 5)$, \dots , $(0, 6t + 4, 8t + 11, 10t + 13)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 8t + 10, 10t + 12)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 8t + 9, 10t + 12)$ and $(0, 6t + 4, 8t + 8, 10t + 11)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 8, 4)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 9$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+9} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 9, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+9)(14t+8)}{14} = (7t + 4)(14t + 9)$. Thus, we need $7t + 4$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 9$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 9$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 4$. We use the base graphs $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 5, 14t + 8)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 14t + 7, 14t + 8)$ and $(0, 1, 7t + 4, 14t + 8)$ as well as $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 6)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 7)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 8)$, \dots , $(0, 7t, 14t, 14t + 14)$, $(0, 7t + 1, 14t + 2, 14t + 5)$ and $(0, 7t + 2, 14t + 4, 14t + 6)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 9, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 10$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+9} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 10, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+10)(14t+9)}{14} = (7t + 5)(14t + 9)$. Thus, we need $7t + 5$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 9$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 9$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 4$. For the first five base graphs, we use $(0, 7t + 4, \infty, 1)$, $(\infty, 0, 7t + 4, 14t + 8)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 4, 14t + 6)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 14t + 5, 14t + 6)$ and $(0, 1, 7t + 3, 14t + 6)$. We also use the $7t$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 5)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 6)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 7)$, \dots , $(0, 7t - 1, 14t - 2, 14t + 2)$, $(0, 7t, 14t, 14t + 3)$ and $(0, 7t + 1, 14t + 2, 14t + 4)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 10, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 11$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+11} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 11, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+11)(14t+10)}{14} = (7t + 5)(14t + 11)$. Thus, we need $7t + 5$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 11$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 11$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 5$. For the first three base graphs, we use $(0, 7t + 5, 7t + 6, 14t + 10)$, $(0, 7t + 4, 14t + 9, 14t + 10)$ and $(0, 1, 7t + 5, 14t + 10)$. We also use the $7t + 2$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 7)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 8)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 9)$, \dots , $(0, 7t + 1, 14t + 2, 14t + 6)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 14t + 4, 14t + 7)$ and $(0, 7t + 3, 14t + 6, 14t + 8)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 11, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 12$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+11} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 12, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+12)(14t+11)}{14} = (7t + 6)(14t + 11)$. Thus, we need $7t + 6$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 11$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 11$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 5$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, 7t + 5, \infty, 1)$ and $(\infty, 0, 7t + 5, 14t + 10)$. We also use the $7t + 4$ base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 7t + 6)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 7)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 8)$, \dots , $(0, 7t + 2, 14t + 4, 14t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 14t + 6, 14t + 8)$ and $(0, 7t + 4, 14t + 8, 14t + 9)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 12, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 13$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+13} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 13, 7)$ is $\frac{7(14t+13)(14t+12)}{14} = (7t + 6)(14t + 13)$. Thus, we need $7t + 6$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 13$). Then, the differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 13$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 6$. For the first three base graphs, we use $(0, 7t + 6, 7t + 7, 14t + 12)$, $(0, 7t + 5, 14t + 11, 14t + 12)$ and $(0, 1, 7t + 6, 14t + 12)$. We also use the $7t + 3$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 8)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 9)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 10)$, \dots , $(0, 7t + 2, 14t + 4, 14t + 8)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 14t + 6, 14t + 9)$ and $(0, 7t + 4, 14t + 8, 14t + 10)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 13, 7)$ exists. \square

We now address the sufficiency of existence of $LWO(n, \lambda)$.

Theorem 3. *Let $n \geq 4$ and $\lambda \geq 4$. For existence of $LWO(n, \lambda)$, the necessary condition for n is that $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{7}$ when $\lambda \not\equiv 0 \pmod{7}$. There is no condition for n when $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$.*

Proof. Similar to the proof of Theorem 1, but by cases on $\lambda \pmod{14}$. \square

Lemma 1. *There exists an $LWO(n, 4)$ for necessary $n \geq 4$.*

Proof. From Theorem 3, the necessary condition is $n \equiv 0, 1, 7, 8 \pmod{14}$. In these cases, $LWO(n, 4)$ exists from Theorem 2. \square

Lemma 2. *There does not exist an $LWO(n, 5)$.*

Proof. The only edge frequencies in an LWO graph are 1, 2 and 4. The only ways to write $\lambda = 5$ as a sum of 1s, 2s and 4s are as $5 = 4 + 1$, $5 = 2 + 2 + 1$, $5 = 2 + 1 + 1 + 1$ and $5 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$. In an $LWO(n, 5)$, the number of times each edge needs to occur with frequency 4 is always the same as the number of times it needs to occur with frequency 1. Every other way to realize $\lambda = 5$ using edge frequencies of 2 will contribute at least one more unmatched edge frequency of 1. Thus, such a decomposition is not possible. \square

Lemma 3. *There exists an $LWO(n, 6)$ for necessary $n \geq 4$.*

Proof. From Theorem 3, the necessary condition is $n \equiv 0, 1, 7, 8 \pmod{14}$.

If $n = 14t$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t-1} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t, 6)$ is $\frac{6(14t)(14t-1)}{14} = 6t(14t - 1)$. Thus, we need $6t$ base graphs (modulo $14t - 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t - 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t - 1$. For the first six base graphs, we use $(\infty, 0, 7t - 1, 14t - 2)$, $(\infty, 0, 7t - 2, 14t - 4)$, $(\infty, 0, 7t - 3, 14t - 6)$, $(\infty, 0, 7t - 4, 14t - 8)$, $(\infty, 0, 7t - 5, 14t - 10)$ and $(\infty, 0, 7t - 6, 14t - 12)$. We also use the $6t - 6$ base graphs $(0, 1, 7t - 6, 14t - 13)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 7, 14t - 15)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 8, 14t - 17)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 9, 14t - 19)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 10, 14t - 21)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 11, 14t - 23)$, \dots , $(0, t - 1, 2t + 4, 3t + 9)$, $(0, t - 1, 2t + 3, 3t + 7)$, $(0, t - 1, 2t + 2, 3t + 5)$, $(0, t - 1, 2t + 1, 3t + 3)$, $(0, t - 1, 2t, 3t + 1)$ and $(0, t - 1, 2t - 1, 3t - 1)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t, 6)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 1$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+1} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 1, 6)$ is $\frac{6(14t+1)(14t)}{14} = 6t(14t + 1)$. Thus, we need $6t$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t$. We use the base graphs $(0, 1, 7t + 1, 14t)$, $(0, 1, 7t, 14t)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 1, 14t - 3)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 2, 14t - 5)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 3, 14t - 7)$, $(0, 1, 7t - 4, 14t - 9)$, \dots , $(0, t, 2t + 6, 3t + 12)$, $(0, t, 2t + 5, 3t + 10)$, $(0, t, 2t + 4, 3t + 8)$, $(0, t, 2t + 3, 3t + 6)$, $(0, t, 2t + 2, 3t + 4)$ and $(0, t, 2t + 1, 3t + 2)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 1, 6)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 7$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t+6} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 7, 6)$ is $\frac{6(14t+7)(14t+6)}{14} = (6t + 3)(14t + 6)$. Thus, we need $6t + 3$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 6$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 6$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 3$. When $t = 0$ (that is, when $n = 7$), we use the base graphs $(0, 3, \infty, 1)$, $(0, 3, 4, 2)$ and $(0, 3, 5, 4)$. When $t \geq 1$ (that is, when $n \geq 21$), for the first three base graphs we use $(0, 7t + 3, \infty, 1)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 4, 13t + 6)$ and $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 5, 13t + 6)$. We also use the $6t$ base graphs $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 5, 13t + 5)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 6, 13t + 5)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 7, 13t + 5)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 8, 13t + 5)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 9, 13t + 5)$, $(0, 7t + 2, 7t + 10, 13t + 5)$, \dots , $(0, 6t + 3, 12t, 12t + 6)$, $(0, 6t + 3, 12t + 1, 12t + 6)$, $(0, 6t + 3, 12t + 2, 12t + 6)$, $(0, 6t + 3, 12t + 3, 12t + 6)$, $(0, 6t + 3, 12t + 4, 12t + 6)$ and $(0, 6t + 3, 12t + 5, 12t + 6)$. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 7, 6)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 8$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+8} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t + 8, 6)$ is $\frac{6(14t+8)(14t+7)}{14} = (6t + 3)(14t + 8)$. Thus, we need $6t + 3$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 8$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 8$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t + 4$. When $t = 0$ (that is, when $n = 8$), we use the base graphs $(0, 4, 5, 2)$, $(0, 4, 7, 5)$ and $(0, 4, 6, 7)$. When $t \geq 1$ (that is, when $n \geq 22$), for the first three base graphs we use $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 5, 13t + 8)$, $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 6, 13t + 8)$ and $(0, 7t + 4, 7t + 7, 13t + 8)$. We also use the $6t$ base graphs $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 7, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 8, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 9, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 10, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 11, 13t + 7)$, $(0, 7t + 3, 7t + 12, 13t + 7)$, \dots , $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 2, 12t + 8)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 3, 12t + 8)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 4, 12t + 8)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 5, 12t + 8)$, $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 6, 12t + 8)$ and $(0, 6t + 4, 12t + 7, 12t + 8)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(14t + 8, 6)$ exists. \square

Lemma 4. *There exists an $LWO(n, 7)$ for any $n \geq 4$.*

Proof. From Theorem 3, there is no condition for n . We consider cases when $n \geq 4$ is odd or even.

If $n = 2t + 1$ (for $t \geq 2$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{2t+1} . The number of graphs required for $LWO(2t + 1, 7)$ is $\frac{7(2t+1)(2t)}{14} = t(2t + 1)$. Thus, we need t base graphs (modulo $2t + 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $2t + 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, t$. When $t = 2$ (that is, when $n = 5$), we use the base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 4)$ and $(0, 2, 4, 3)$. When $t \geq 3$ (that is, when $n \geq 7$), for the first three base graphs we use $(0, t, 2t - 1, 2t)$, $(0, 1, t + 1, 2t)$ and $(0, t - 1, t, 2t)$. We also use the $t - 3$ base graphs $(0, 2, 4, t + 2)$, $(0, 3, 6, t + 3)$, $(0, 4, 8, t + 4), \dots, (0, t - 4, 2t - 8, 2t - 4)$, $(0, t - 3, 2t - 6, 2t - 3)$ and $(0, t - 2, 2t - 4, 2t - 2)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(2t + 1, 7)$ exists.

If $n = 2t$ (for $t \geq 2$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{2t-1} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(2t, 7)$ is $\frac{7(2t)(2t-1)}{14} = t(2t - 1)$. Thus, we need t base graphs (modulo $2t - 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $2t - 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, t - 1$. For the first two base graphs, we use $(0, t - 1, \infty, t)$ and $(\infty, 0, t - 1, 2t - 2)$. We also use the $t - 2$ base graphs $(0, 1, 2, t)$, $(0, 2, 4, t + 1)$, $(0, 3, 6, t + 2), \dots, (0, t - 4, 2t - 8, 2t - 5)$, $(0, t - 3, 2t - 6, 2t - 4)$ and $(0, t - 2, 2t - 4, 2t - 3)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $LWO(2t, 7)$ exists. \square

The following examples play important roles in this paper.

Example 3. *The LWO graphs $(1, 2, 6, 4)$, $(1, 3, 5, 7)$, $(1, 4, 2, 5)$, $(1, 7, 2, 5)$, $(2, 3, 4, 5)$, $(2, 5, 1, 4)$, $(2, 5, 7, 6)$, $(2, 7, 1, 5)$, $(3, 6, 4, 7)$, $(4, 2, 1, 3)$, $(4, 3, 2, 1)$, $(4, 5, 6, 7)$, $(4, 6, 7, 5)$, $(4, 7, 2, 5)$, $(5, 1, 6, 3)$, $(5, 2, 6, 1)$, $(5, 3, 1, 4)$, $(6, 1, 7, 4)$, $(6, 2, 3, 4)$, $(6, 3, 7, 4)$, $(6, 3, 7, 4)$, $(6, 4, 1, 5)$, $(6, 4, 2, 1)$, $(6, 5, 4, 3)$, $(7, 3, 6, 1)$, $(7, 5, 3, 1)$ and $(7, 6, 5, 4)$ constitute an example of an $LWO(7, 9)$ with point set $V = \{1, \dots, 7\}$.*

Example 4. *The LWO graphs $(1, 2, 3, 4)$, $(1, 3, 4, 6)$, $(1, 5, 2, 6)$, $(1, 6, 8, 2)$, $(1, 7, 2, 8)$, $(2, 5, 7, 8)$, $(2, 6, 1, 4)$, $(2, 6, 4, 8)$, $(3, 2, 4, 1)$, $(3, 7, 1, 4)$, $(3, 8, 5, 6)$, $(4, 1, 5, 7)$, $(4, 2, 1, 3)$, $(4, 2, 3, 6)$, $(4, 2, 8, 1)$, $(4, 3, 5, 6)$, $(4, 5, 1, 6)$, $(4, 5, 3, 6)$, $(4, 5, 6, 7)$, $(4, 6, 3, 7)$, $(5, 3, 1, 4)$, $(5, 6, 7, 8)$, $(5, 8, 1, 6)$, $(6, 2, 5, 4)$, $(6, 3, 7, 2)$, $(6, 7, 8, 1)$, $(6, 8, 5, 7)$, $(7, 2, 1, 3)$, $(7, 3, 8, 4)$, $(7, 3, 8, 6)$, $(7, 4, 8, 6)$, $(7, 5, 4, 3)$, $(8, 1, 7, 6)$, $(8, 2, 6, 4)$, $(8, 4, 7, 2)$ and $(8, 7, 4, 2)$ constitute an example of an $LWO(8, 9)$ with point set $V = \{1, \dots, 8\}$.*

Example 5. *The LWO graphs $(a, 1, b, 2)$, $(a, 2, b, 3)$, $(a, 3, b, 4)$, $(a, 4, b, 6)$, $(a, 5, b, 4)$, $(a, 7, b, 6)$, $(b, 2, a, 4)$, $(b, 3, a, 4)$, $(b, 4, a, 3)$, $(b, 5, a, 7)$, $(b, 6, a, 5)$, $(b, 7, a, 6)$, $(1, b, 7, a)$, $(3, a, 1, b)$, $(3, a, 2, b)$, $(3, b, 5, a)$, $(3, b, 6, a)$ and $(6, a, 1, b)$ constitute an example of an LWO -decomposition of $9K_{\{a,b\},\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7\}}$.*

Sarvate, Winter and Zhang [16, 17] have obtained several results on such multigraph decompositions of bipartite graphs.

Lemma 5. *There exists an $LWO(n, 9)$ for necessary $n \geq 4$.*

Proof. From Theorem 3, the necessary condition is $n \equiv 0, 1, 7, 8 \pmod{14}$.

If $n = 14t$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as $\mathbb{Z}_{14t-1} \cup \{\infty\}$. The number of graphs required for $LWO(14t, 9)$ is $\frac{9(14t)(14t-1)}{14} = 9t(14t - 1)$. Thus, we need $9t$ base graphs (modulo $14t - 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t - 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t - 1$. For the first nine base graphs, we use $(0, \infty, 1, 7t)$, $(0, 7t - 1, 14t - 3, \infty)$, $(0, 7t - 2, 14t - 4, \infty)$, $(0, 1, 2, 7t + 1)$, $(0, 7t - 1, 14t - 4, 14t - 3)$, $(0, 7t - 3, 14t - 6, 14t - 5)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 3)$, $(0, 7t - 1, 14t - 5, 14t - 3)$ and $(0, 7t - 4, 14t - 8, 14t - 6)$. We also use the $9t - 9$ base graphs $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 1)$, $(0, 7t - 5, 14t - 11, 14t - 8)$, $(0, 7t - 6, 14t - 12, 14t - 9)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 3)$, $(0, 7t - 5, 14t - 12, 14t - 8)$, $(0, 7t - 7, 14t - 14, 14t - 10)$, $(0, 5, 10, 7t + 5)$, $(0, 7t - 5, 14t - 13, 14t - 8)$, $(0, 7t - 8, 14t - 16, 14t - 11), \dots, (0, 3t - 3, 6t - 6, 9t - 3)$, $(0, 3t + 3, 6t + 5, 9t + 2)$, $(0, 3t + 2, 6t + 4, 9t + 1)$, $(0, 3t - 2, 6t - 4, 9t - 1)$, $(0, 3t + 3, 6t + 4, 9t + 2)$, $(0, 3t + 1, 6t + 2, 9t)$, $(0, 3t - 1, 6t - 2, 9t + 1)$,

$(0, 3t + 3, 6t + 3, 9t + 2)$ and $(0, 3t, 6t, 9t - 1)$ if necessary. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t, 9)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 1$ (for $t \geq 1$), we consider the set V as \mathbb{Z}_{14t+1} . The number of graphs required for $\text{LWO}(14t + 1, 9)$ is $\frac{9(14t+1)(14t)}{14} = 9t(14t + 1)$. Thus, we need $9t$ base graphs (modulo $14t + 1$). The differences we must achieve (modulo $14t + 1$) are $1, 2, \dots, 7t$. We use the base graphs $(0, 1, 2, 7t + 2)$, $(0, 7t, 14t - 1, 14t)$, $(0, 7t - 1, 14t - 2, 14t - 1)$, $(0, 2, 4, 7t + 4)$, $(0, 7t, 14t - 2, 14t)$, $(0, 7t - 2, 14t - 4, 14t - 2)$, $(0, 3, 6, 7t + 6)$, $(0, 7t, 14t - 3, 14t)$, $(0, 7t - 3, 14t - 6, 14t - 3)$, $(0, 4, 8, 7t + 4)$, $(0, 7t - 4, 14t - 9, 14t - 5)$, $(0, 7t - 5, 14t - 10, 14t - 6)$, $(0, 5, 10, 7t + 6)$, $(0, 7t - 4, 14t - 10, 14t - 5)$, $(0, 7t - 6, 14t - 12, 14t - 7)$, $(0, 6, 12, 7t + 8)$, $(0, 7t - 4, 14t - 11, 14t - 5)$, $(0, 7t - 7, 14t - 14, 14t - 8)$, \dots , $(0, 3t - 2, 6t - 4, 9t)$, $(0, 3t + 4, 6t + 7, 9t + 5)$, $(0, 3t + 3, 6t + 6, 9t + 4)$, $(0, 3t - 1, 6t - 2, 9t + 2)$, $(0, 3t + 4, 6t + 6, 9t + 5)$, $(0, 3t + 2, 6t + 4, 9t + 3)$, $(0, 3t, 6t, 9t + 4)$, $(0, 3t + 4, 6t + 5, 9t + 5)$ and $(0, 3t + 1, 6t + 2, 9t + 2)$. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t + 1, 9)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 7$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{14t}, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_7\}$. To obtain an $\text{LWO}(14t + 7, 9)$, we use an $\text{LWO}(14t, 9)$ on $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{14t}\}$ (given two cases above) if necessary, an $\text{LWO}(7, 9)$ on $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_7\}$ (as in Example 3), and an LWO-decomposition of $9K_{\{a_{2i-1}, a_{2i}\}, \{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5, b_6, b_7\}}$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, 7t$ (as in Example 5) if necessary. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t + 7, 9)$ exists.

If $n = 14t + 8$ (for $t \geq 0$), we consider the set V as $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{14t}\}$. To obtain an $\text{LWO}(8 + 14t, 9)$, we use an $\text{LWO}(8, 9)$ on $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_8\}$ (as in Example 4), an $\text{LWO}(14t, 9)$ on $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{14t}\}$ (given three cases above) if necessary, and an LWO-decomposition of $9K_{\{a_{2i-1}, a_{2i}\}, \{b_{7j-6}, b_{7j-5}, b_{7j-4}, b_{7j-3}, b_{7j-2}, b_{7j-1}, b_{7j}\}}$ for all $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, 2t$ (as in Example 5) if necessary. Hence, in this case, $\text{LWO}(14t + 8, 9)$ exists. \square

Theorem 4. *An $\text{LWO}(n, \lambda)$ exists for all $\lambda \geq 4$ except $\lambda = 5$ (according to Lemma 2), for corresponding necessary $n \geq 4$.*

Proof. We proceed by cases on $\lambda \pmod{7}$.

For $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t$ for $t \geq 1$), by taking t copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4), we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t)$.

For $\lambda \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 1 = 7(t - 1) + 8$ for $t \geq 1$), we first take two copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 4)$ (given in Lemma 1). (This gives us $\lambda = 8$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to $t - 1$ copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 1)$.

For $\lambda \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 2 = 7(t - 1) + 9$ for $t \geq 1$), we first take an $\text{LWO}(n, 9)$ (given in Lemma 5). (This gives us $\lambda = 9$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to $t - 1$ copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 2)$.

For $\lambda \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 3 = 7(t - 1) + 10$ for $t \geq 1$), we first take an $\text{LWO}(n, 4)$ (given in Lemma 1) and an $\text{LWO}(n, 6)$ (given in Lemma 3). (This gives us $\lambda = 10$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to $t - 1$ copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 3)$.

For $\lambda \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 4$ for $t \geq 0$), we first take an $\text{LWO}(n, 4)$ (given in Lemma 1). (This gives us $\lambda = 4$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to t copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 4)$.

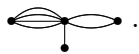
For $\lambda \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 5 = 7(t - 1) + 12$ for $t \geq 1$), we first take two copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 6)$ (given in Lemma 3). (This gives us $\lambda = 12$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to $t - 1$ copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 5)$.

For $\lambda \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$ (so that $\lambda = 7t + 6$ for $t \geq 0$), we first take an $\text{LWO}(n, 6)$ (given in Lemma 3). (This gives us $\lambda = 6$ thus far.) We then adjoin this to t copies of an $\text{LWO}(n, 7)$ (given in Lemma 4) if necessary. Hence, we have an $\text{LWO}(n, 7t + 6)$. \square

4. Conclusion

We have identified LWO graphs, found the minimum λ for decomposition of λK_n into these graphs, and shown that for all viable values of λ , the necessary conditions are sufficient for LWO-decompositions.

We leave it as an open problem to find decompositions of λK_n into the (unnamed) graphs



Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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