

Double Dudeney sets for an odd number of vertices

Midori Kobayashi* Nobuaki Mutoh

School of Administration and Informatics
University of Shizuoka, Shizuoka 422-8526
Japan

Kiyasu-Zen'iti

Semiconductor Research Institute
Sendaisi Aobaku Kawauti 980-0862
Japan

Gisaku Nakamura

Tokai University
Shibuyaku Tokyo 151-0063
Japan

Abstract

A double Dudeney set in K_n is a multiset of Hamilton cycles in K_n having the property that each 2-path in K_n lies in exactly two of the cycles. In this paper, we construct a double Dudeney set in K_n when $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_s + 2$, where p_1, p_2, \dots, p_s are different odd prime numbers and s is a natural number.

1 Introduction

A Dudeney set in the complete graph K_n is a set of Hamilton cycles in K_n having the property that each path of length two (2-path) lies on exactly one of the cycles. The length of a path is the number of edges in the path. A Dudeney set in K_n has been constructed when $n \geq 4$ is even [4]. In the case when n is odd, a Dudeney set in K_n has been constructed only when $n = 2^e + 1$ (e is a natural number) [6], $n = p + 2$ (p is an odd prime number and 2 or -2 is a primitive root of $GF(p)$) [1, 3], and in some other cases when $n = p + 2$ [3, 5].

* This research was supported in part by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) Japan.

A double Dudeney set in K_n is a multiset of Hamilton cycles having the property that each 2-path lies on exactly two of the cycles. If there exists a Dudeney set in K_n , there exists a double Dudeney set in K_n . Except for the above n , it is not known whether a double Dudeney set of K_n exists.

In this paper we will prove Theorem 1.1. For part of our proof we will use the same method as used by [4].

Theorem 1.1 *There exists a double Dudeney set in K_n when $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_s + 2$, where p_1, p_2, \dots, p_s are different odd prime numbers and s is a natural number.*

2 Notation and Preliminaries

Let $n \geq 4$ be an even number. Put $m = n - 1$ and $r = (m - 1)/2$. Let $K_n = (V_n, E_n)$ be the complete graph on n vertices, where V_n is the vertex set and E_n is the edge set. From now on, put $V_n = \{\infty\} \cup Z_m = \{\infty\} \cup \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$, where Z_m is the set of integers modulo m .

For any integer $i, 0 \leq i \leq m - 1$, we define the 1-factor F_i :

$$F_i = \{\{\infty, i\}\} \cup \{\{a, b\} \in E_n \mid a, b \neq \infty, a + b \equiv 2i \pmod{m}\}.$$

Let σ be the vertex-permutation $(\infty)(0 \ 1 \ 2 \ \cdots \ m-1)$, and put $\Sigma = \{\sigma^j \mid 0 \leq j \leq m - 1\}$. Clearly σ induces a permutation of the edges of K_n ; we will also denote this permutation by σ . When \mathcal{C} is a set of cycles or circuits in K_n , define $\Sigma\mathcal{C} = \{C^\tau \mid C \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in \Sigma\}$.

For any edge $\{a, b\}$ in K_n , we define the length $d(a, b)$:

$$d(a, b) = \begin{cases} (b - a) \pmod{m} & (a, b \neq \infty) \\ \infty & (\text{otherwise}), \end{cases}$$

and for any two lengths $d_1, d_2 (\neq \infty)$, we define that d_1 and d_2 are equal as lengths when $d_1 = d_2$ or $d_1 = -d_2$ in Z_m .

The following proposition is easy to prove.

Proposition 2.1 *Let H_i ($1 \leq i \leq m-1$) be a 1-factor in K_n . If $F_0 \cup H_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq m-1$) is a Hamilton cycle in K_n and $\cup_{i=1}^{m-1} H_i = E_n \setminus F_0$, then $\Sigma\{F_0 \cup H_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq m-1\}$ is a double Dudeney set in K_n .*

Let A be a 1-factor in K_n that satisfies A1 and A2:

A1. $F_0 \cup A$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_n .

A2. If S is the multiset $\{d(a, b) \mid \{a, b\} \in A\}$, then we have $S = \{\infty, 1, 2, \dots, r\}$, i.e., A has all lengths.

We construct the complete graph $K_{n'}$ by adding a new vertex λ to K_n ; that is, put $n' = n + 1$, $K_{n'} = (V_{n'}, E_{n'})$ and $V_{n'} = V_n \cup \{\lambda\}$. Extend σ to be the following permutation of $V_{n'}$, also denoted by σ : $\sigma = (\infty)(\lambda)(0 \ 1 \ 2 \ \cdots \ m-1)$. Again, let $\Sigma = \{\sigma^j \mid 0 \leq j \leq m - 1\}$.

If we insert the vertex λ into all the edges in A , we get a set of 2-paths in $K_{n'}$. Denote this set by A^λ , that is,

$$A^\lambda = \{(a, \lambda, b) \mid \{a, b\} \in A\}.$$

We note that paths are undirected, i.e., $(a, \lambda, b) = (b, \lambda, a)$. $F_0 \cup A^\lambda$ is considered to be a circuit in $K_{n'}$.

Proposition 2.2 (Proposition 2.3 [5]) *Let A be a 1-factor in K_n which satisfies A1 and A2 above. Assume h_i ($1 \leq i \leq r$) is a Hamilton cycle in K_n and $\Sigma\{h_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq r\}$ is a Dudeney set in K_n . Then*

$$\Sigma(\{F_0 \cup A^\lambda\} \cup \{h_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq r\})$$

has each 2-path in $K_{n'}$ exactly once.

Proposition 2.3 *Let A_1 and A_2 be 1-factors in K_n which satisfy A1 and A2 above. ($A_1 = A_2$ is allowed.) Assume h_i ($1 \leq i \leq 2r$) is a Hamilton cycle in K_n and $\Sigma\{h_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\}$ is a double Dudeney set in K_n . Then*

$$\Sigma(\{F_0 \cup A_1^\lambda, F_0 \cup A_2^\lambda\} \cup \{h_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\})$$

has each 2-path in $K_{n'}$ exactly twice, where $\{ \}$ means a multiset.

Proof. The proof is similar to the proof of Proposition 2.2. □

Now we refer to the following famous theorem.

Proposition 2.4 *Let m_1, m_2 be natural numbers with $(m_1, m_2) = 1$. Consider an m_2 by m_1 rectangle having $m_2 \times m_1$ cells. If a ball comes in diagonally from the upper left corner and bounces off the edges as in Figure 2.1, then the ball passes through each cell exactly once and leaves from the lower right corner when m_1 and m_2 are odd, from the lower left corner when m_1 is odd and m_2 is even, and from the upper right corner when m_1 is even and m_2 is odd.*

Finally, we explain what we mean by exchanging edges between two 1-factors. Let H_1 and H_2 be 1-factors in K_n . Assume that $H_1 \cup H_2$ is not hamiltonian and that we have a cycle C in $H_1 \cup H_2$. Then we exchange edges of H_1 and H_2 via C to obtain two new 1-factors H_1' and H_2' :

$$H_1' = (H_1 \setminus C) \cup (H_2 \cap C), \text{ and}$$

$$H_2' = (H_2 \setminus C) \cup (H_1 \cap C).$$

3 Property (B_n)

Let $n \geq 4$ be an even number. Put $m = n - 1$ and $r = (m - 1)/2$. We denote by (B_n) the following property of K_n :

(B_n) There exist 1-factors G_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2r$, in K_n such that

(1) $F_0 \cup G_i$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_n ($1 \leq i \leq 2r$),

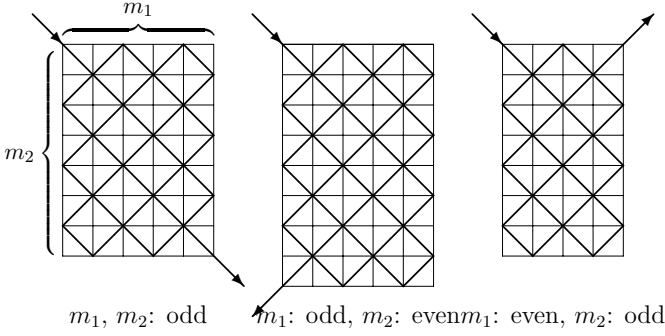


Figure 2.1

- (2) $\cup_{i=1}^{2r} G_i = E_n \setminus F_0$,
(3) G_i has an edge of length 1 ($1 \leq i \leq 2r$).

In this terminology, if we put $D = \Sigma\{F_0 \cup G_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\}$, D is a double Dudeney set in K_n from Proposition 2.1.

Proposition 3.1 *Let $n \geq 4$ be even. If K_n satisfies property (B_n) , then there exists a double Dudeney set in K_{n+1} .*

Proof. From the assumption, there exist 1-factors G_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2r$, in K_n satisfying (1), (2), (3) of (B_n) .

Let θ be the vertex permutation:

$$\theta = \begin{cases} (2 \ -2)(4 \ -4)(6 \ -6) \cdots (r \ -r) & (\text{if } m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}) \\ (2 \ -2)(4 \ -4)(6 \ -6) \cdots (r-1 \ -(r-1)) & (\text{if } m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}). \end{cases}$$

Then the order of θ is 2 and each edge in F_0 is fixed by θ , i.e., $\theta e = e$ for $e \in F_0$. Put

$$E^{(1)} = \{\{a, b\} \mid d(a, b) = 1\} \setminus \{\{r, -r\}\};$$

then we have $|E^{(1)}| = 2r$.

Claim 3.1 $\theta E^{(1)} = F_r \cup F_{-r} \setminus \{\{\infty, r\}, \{\infty, -r\}\}$.

Since the G_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2r$, satisfy conditions (1) and (2) of (B_n) , the 1-factors θG_i , $1 \leq i \leq 2r$, also satisfy conditions (1) and (2) of (B_n) , that is, we have,

Claim 3.2

- (1) $F_0 \cup \theta G_i$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_n ($1 \leq i \leq 2r$),
(2) $\cup_{i=1}^{2r} \theta G_i = E_n \setminus F_0$.

Proof. (1) Since $\theta(F_0 \cup G_i) = \theta F_0 \cup (\theta G_i) = F_0 \cup (\theta G_i)$, $F_0 \cup \theta G_i$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_n .

(2) Since $\cup G_i = E_n \setminus F_0$, we have $\theta(\cup G_i) = \theta(E_n \setminus F_0) = \theta E_n \setminus \theta F_0 = E_n \setminus F_0$. \square

Therefore we obtain from Proposition 2.1,

Claim 3.3 $\Sigma\{F_0 \cup \theta G_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\}$ is a double Dudeney set in K_n .

Insert the vertex λ into all edges in F_r and F_{-r} and define F_r^λ and F_{-r}^λ :

$$F_r^\lambda = \{(a, \lambda, b) \mid \{a, b\} \in F_r\} \text{ and } F_{-r}^\lambda = \{(a, \lambda, b) \mid \{a, b\} \in F_{-r}\},$$

where (a, λ, b) is a 2-path. Put $\mathcal{D}^\lambda = \Sigma(\{F_0 \cup F_r^\lambda, F_0 \cup F_{-r}^\lambda\} \cup \{F_0 \cup \theta G_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\})$.

Claim 3.4 \mathcal{D}^λ has each 2-path in $K_{n'}$ exactly twice.

Proof. From Claim 3.3 and the fact that F_r and F_{-r} satisfy A1 and A2, we obtain Claim 3.4 by Proposition 2.3. \square

We would like to leave λ in the 2-path $(\infty, \lambda, r) \in F_r^\lambda$ and λ in the 2-path $(\infty, \lambda, -r) \in F_{-r}^\lambda$, and scatter the remaining $2r$ λ s in $F_r^\lambda \cup F_{-r}^\lambda$ over $\{\theta G_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\}$.

From Claim 3.1, for any i , $1 \leq i \leq 2r$, there is exactly one edge $e_i = \{a_i, b_i\}$ ($a_i, b_i \neq \infty$) that is in both θG_i and $F_r \cup F_{-r}$. Denote by $\theta G'_i$ the set of edges and the 2-path obtained from θG_i by inserting λ into the edge e_i , i.e.,

$$\theta G'_i = \theta G_i \setminus \{\{a_i, b_i\}\} \cup \{(a_i, \lambda, b_i)\}.$$

Define

$$F'_r = F_r \setminus \{\{\infty, r\}\} \cup \{(\infty, \lambda, r)\} \text{ and} \\ F'_{-r} = F_{-r} \setminus \{\{\infty, -r\}\} \cup \{(\infty, \lambda, -r)\},$$

where (∞, λ, r) and $(\infty, \lambda, -r)$ are 2-paths. Put

$$\mathcal{D} = \Sigma(\{F_0 \cup F'_r, F_0 \cup F'_{-r}\} \cup \{F_0 \cup \theta G'_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r\}).$$

Then we have

Claim 3.5 \mathcal{D} is a double Dudeney set in $K_{n'}$.

Proof. Each element of \mathcal{D} is clearly a Hamilton cycle in $K_{n'}$. The set of all 2-paths in \mathcal{D} and the set of all 2-paths in \mathcal{D}^λ are the same. Hence \mathcal{D} has each 2-path in $K_{n'}$ exactly twice by Claim 3.4. Therefore \mathcal{D} is a double Dudeney set in K_n . \square

This completes the proof of Proposition 3.1. \square

Proposition 3.2 K_{p+1} satisfies property (B_{p+1}) , where p is an odd prime number.

Proof. Put $G_i = F_i$, $1 \leq i \leq p-1$, then the G_i , $1 \leq i \leq p-1$, satisfy (1), (2), (3) of property (B_{p+1}) . \square

From Propositions 3.1 and 3.2, we obtain,

Proposition 3.3 There exists a double Dudeney set in K_{p+2} where p is an odd prime number.

4 A proof of Theorem 1.1

To prove Theorem 1.1, we only have to prove Proposition 4.1 from Proposition 3.1.

Proposition 4.1 K_n satisfies property (B_n) when $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_s + 1$, where p_1, p_2, \dots, p_s are different odd prime numbers and s is a natural number.

Proof. We will prove the proposition by induction on s . When $s = 1$, the proposition holds from Proposition 3.2. Assume $s \geq 2$. We can assume $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_s$ without loss of generality. Put $m_1 = p_1$, $m_2 = p_2 p_3 \cdots p_s$ and $m = m_1 m_2$. Put $n_l = m_l + 1$ ($l = 1, 2$) and $n = m + 1$. Note that K_{n_1} satisfies property (B_{n_1}) from Proposition 3.2, and K_{n_2} satisfies property (B_{n_2}) from the hypothesis of the induction. Now we will show that K_n satisfies property (B_n) .

For $l = 1, 2$, put $r_l = (m_l - 1)/2$ and consider the complete graph $K_{n_l} = (V_{n_l}, E_{n_l})$, where $V_{n_l} = \{\infty_l\} \cup Z_{m_l} = \{\infty_l\} \cup \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m_l - 1\}$. Vertices (other than ∞_l) are considered modulo m_l .

Put $r = (m - 1)/2$ and consider the complete graph $K_n = (V_n, E_n)$, where $V_n = \{\infty\} \cup Z_m = \{\infty\} \cup \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m - 1\}$.

Since $(m_1, m_2) = 1$, Z_m is isomorphic to $Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$ as additive groups, where \times means a direct product. The isomorphism from Z_m to $Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$ is given by

$$f : a(\text{mod } m) \mapsto (a(\text{mod } m_1), a(\text{mod } m_2)).$$

We identify Z_m and $Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$ through this mapping. Then we can represent V_n as

$$V_n = \{\infty\} \cup \{(a_1, a_2) \mid a_1 \in Z_{m_1}, a_2 \in Z_{m_2}\}.$$

For any edge $\{\alpha, \beta\}$ in K_n , the length $d(\alpha, \beta)$ is defined as an element of Z_m in Section 2. Since $Z_m \cong Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$, the length $d(\alpha, \beta)$ is also represented as an element of $Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$:

$$d(\alpha, \beta) = \begin{cases} ((b_1 - a_1)(\text{mod } m_1), (b_2 - a_2)(\text{mod } m_2)) & (\alpha, \beta \neq \infty) \\ \infty & (\text{otherwise}), \end{cases}$$

where we put $\alpha = (a_1, a_2), \beta = (b_1, b_2)$ when $\alpha, \beta \neq \infty$. And any two lengths $d_1, d_2 (\neq \infty)$ are equal when $d_1 = d_2$ or $d_1 = -d_2$ in $Z_{m_1} \times Z_{m_2}$, for example, lengths $(1, 1)$ and $(-1, -1)$ are equal; $(1, -1)$ and $(-1, 1)$ are equal.

Let $\sigma_l = (\infty_l)(0 \ 1 \ 2 \ \cdots \ m_l - 1)$ be a permutation on V_{n_l} , and put $\Sigma^{(l)} = \langle \sigma_l \rangle$ ($l = 1, 2$). Put $\sigma = (\infty)(0 \ 1 \ 2 \ \cdots \ m - 1)$ and $\Sigma = \langle \sigma \rangle$. Then σ can be written as $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$ and it is trivial that $\Sigma \cong \Sigma^{(1)} \times \Sigma^{(2)}$. For $l = 1, 2$, we denote F_0 in K_{n_l} by $F_0^{(l)}$, and we denote F_0 in K_n by $F_{(0,0)}$:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{(0,0)} &= \{\{\infty, 0\}\} \cup \{\{\alpha, \beta\} \in E_n \mid \alpha, \beta \neq \infty, \alpha + \beta \equiv 0 \pmod{m}\} \\ &= \{\{\infty, (0, 0)\}\} \\ &\quad \cup \{\{(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2)\} \in E_n \mid a_l, b_l \neq \infty_l, a_l + b_l \equiv 0 \pmod{m_l} \ (l = 1, 2)\}. \end{aligned}$$

From our assumption, for $l = 1, 2$, there are 1-factors $G_1^{(l)}, G_2^{(l)}, \dots, G_{2r_l}^{(l)}$ in K_{n_l} satisfying

- (1) $F_0^{(l)} \cup \theta G_i^{(l)}$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_{n_l} ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$),
- (2) $\cup_{i=1}^{2r_1} G_i^{(l)} = E_{n_l} \setminus F_0^{(l)}$,
- (3) $G_i^{(l)}$ has an edge of length 1 ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$).

We denote by v_i and w_j the vertices such that $(\infty_1, v_i) \in G_i^{(1)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$), and $(\infty_2, w_j) \in G_j^{(2)}$ ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

Now we define 1-factors in K_n from 1-factors $G_i^{(1)}$, $1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$, and $G_j^{(2)}$, $1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$, as follows:

- (1) For i ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$) and j ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$),

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{(i,j)} = & \{ \{ \infty, (v_i, w_j) \} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (v_i, a), (v_i, b) \} \mid a, b \neq \infty_2, \{a, b\} \in G_j^{(2)} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (a, w_j), (b, w_j) \} \mid a, b \neq \infty_1, \{a, b\} \in G_i^{(1)} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \} \mid a_l, b_l \neq \infty_l (l = 1, 2), \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad \{a_1, b_1\} \in G_i^{(1)}, \{a_2, b_2\} \in G_j^{(2)} \}.
\end{aligned}$$

- (2) For i ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$),

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{(i,0)} = & \{ \{ \infty, (v_i, 0) \} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ v_i, a), (v_i, b) \} \mid a, b \neq \infty_2, \{a, b\} \in F_0^{(2)} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \} \mid a_l, b_l \neq \infty_l (l = 1, 2), \{a_i, b_1\} \in G_i^{(1)}, \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad a_2 + b_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_2} \}.
\end{aligned}$$

- (3) For j ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$),

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{(0,j)} = & \{ \{ \infty, (0, w_j) \} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (a, w_j), (b, w_j) \} \mid a, b \neq \infty_1, \{a, b\} \in F_0^{(1)} \} \\
& \cup \{ \{ (a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \} \mid a_l, b_l \neq \infty_l (l = 1, 2), a_1 + b_1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1}, \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad \{a_2, b_2\} \in G_j^{(2)} \}.
\end{aligned}$$

It is trivial that these are 1-factors in K_n and any two of these 1-factors have no common edges.

We can represent these 1-factors in K_n geometrically. Since $F_0^{(1)} \cup G_i^{(1)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$) is a Hamilton cycle in K_{n_1} , put

$$F_0^{(1)} \cup G_i^{(1)} = (\infty_1, x_{1i}=0, x_{2i}, x_{3i}, \dots, x_{n_1-1,i}=v_i),$$

where $x_{si} \in V_{n_1}$ ($1 \leq s \leq n_1 - 1$), and

$$\begin{aligned}
\{ \infty_1, x_{1i} \} \in F_0^{(1)}, \{ x_{1i}, x_{2i} \} \in G_i^{(1)}, \{ x_{2i}, x_{3i} \} \in F_0^{(1)}, \dots, \\
\{ x_{n_1-2,i}, x_{n_1-1,i} \} \in F_0^{(1)}, \{ x_{n_1-1,i}, \infty_1 \} \in G_i^{(1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, since $F_0^{(2)} \cup G_j^{(2)}$ ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$) is a Hamilton cycle in K_{n_2} , put

$$F_0^{(2)} \cup G_j^{(2)} = (\infty_2, y_{1j} = 0, y_{2j}, y_{3j}, \dots, y_{n_2-1,j} = w_j),$$

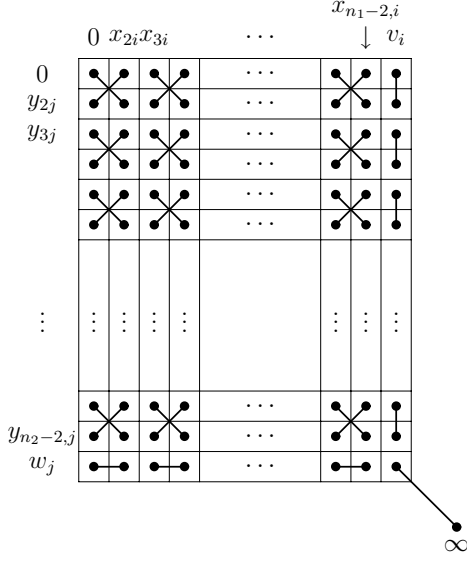


Figure 4.1: $G_{(i,j)}$

where $y_{tj} \in V_{n_2}$ ($1 \leq t \leq n_2 - 1$), and

$$\{\infty_2, y_{1j}\} \in F_0^{(2)}, \{y_{1j}, y_{2j}\} \in G_j^{(2)}, \{y_{2j}, y_{3j}\} \in F_0^{(2)}, \dots, \\ \{y_{n_2-2,j}, y_{n_2-1,j}\} \in F_0^{(2)}, \{y_{n_2-1,j}, \infty_2\} \in G_j^{(2)}.$$

The 1-factor $G_{(i,j)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$) is represented in Figure 4.1.

In the figures each cell represents a vertex ($\neq \infty$) in K_n : the cell (x_{si}, y_{tj}) represents the vertex (x_{si}, y_{tj}) . The 1-factor $G_{(i,0)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$) is represented in Figure 4.2, where we can take any $G_j^{(2)}$ ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

The 1-factor $G_{(0,j)}$ ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$) is represented in Figure 4.3, where we can take any $G_i^{(1)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$).

The 1-factor $F_{(0,0)}$ is represented in Figure 4.4, where we can take any $G_i^{(1)}$ and $G_j^{(2)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

Put

$$\mathcal{G}_1 = \{G_{(i,j)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2\}, \\ \mathcal{G}_2 = \{G_{(i,0)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1\}, \\ \mathcal{G}_3 = \{G_{(0,j)} \mid 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2\}, \text{ and} \\ \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_1 \cup \mathcal{G}_2 \cup \mathcal{G}_3.$$

Claim 4.1

- (1) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)}$ is a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).
- (2) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)}$ is not a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$).
- (3) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(0,j)}$ is not a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

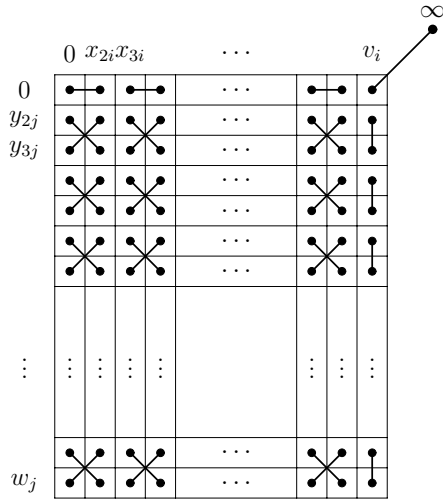


Figure 4.2: $G_{(i,0)}$

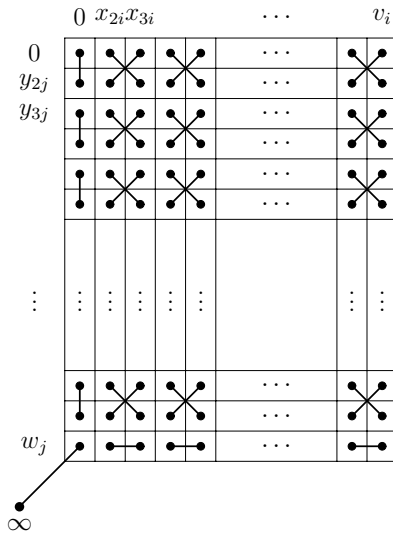


Figure 4.3: $G_{(0,j)}$

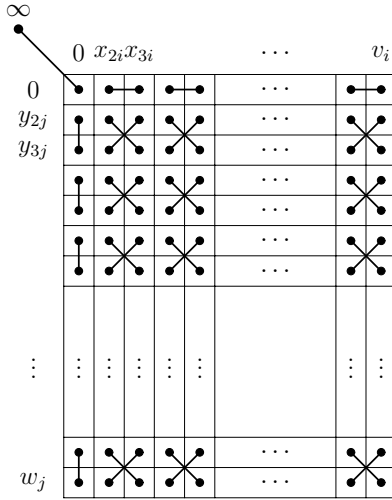


Figure 4.4: $F_{(0,0)}$

Proof.

(1) Combining Figures 4.1 and 4.4, we obtain Figure 4.5.

Then we see $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)}$ is a Hamilton cycle from Proposition 2.4.

(2) Combining Figures 4.2 and 4.4, we obtain Figure 4.6.

Then we see $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)}$ is the union of one cycle of length $m_1 + 1$ and r_2 cycles of length $2m_1$.

(3) Combining Figures 4.3 and 4.4, we obtain Figure 4.7.

Then we see $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(0,j)}$ is the union of one cycle of length $m_2 + 1$ and r_1 cycles of length $2m_2$. \square

Claim 4.2 \mathcal{G} satisfies conditions (2) and (3) of property (B_n) , that is,

$$\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G = E_n \setminus F_{(0,0)},$$

and G ($G \in \mathcal{G}$) has an edge of length $1 = (1, 1)$.

Proof. Since $|\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G| = n(n-2)/2$ and $(\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G) \cap F_{(0,0)} = \emptyset$, we have $\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G = E_n \setminus F_{(0,0)}$.

From our assumption, there exists an edge $\{a, b\}$ of length 1 in $G_i^{(1)}$ and there exists an edge $\{c, d\}$ of length 1 in $G_j^{(2)}$. The edges $\{(a, c), (b, d)\}$ and $\{(a, d), (b, c)\}$ are in $G_{(i,j)}$ and their lengths are $1 = (1, 1)$ and $(1, -1)$. So, there exists an edge of length 1 in $G_{(i,j)}$.

As there exists an edge of length 1 in F_0 , proofs about $G_{(i,0)}$ and $G_{(0,j)}$ are similar. \square

For any $G \in \mathcal{G}_2 \cup \mathcal{G}_3$, $F_{(0,0)} \cup G$ is not a Hamilton cycle from Claim 4.1, so we will

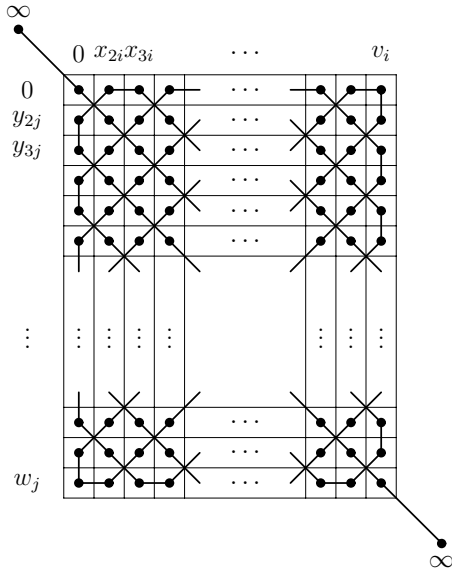


Figure 4.5: $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)}$

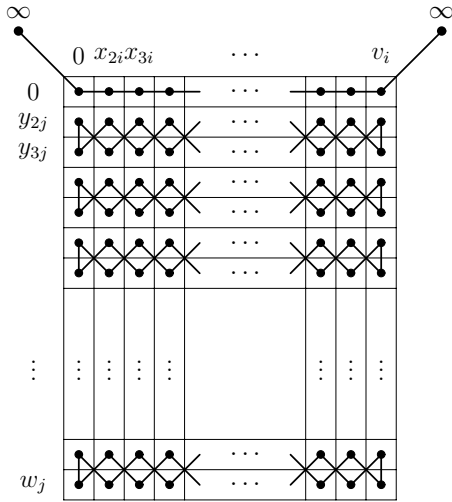


Figure 4.6: $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)}$

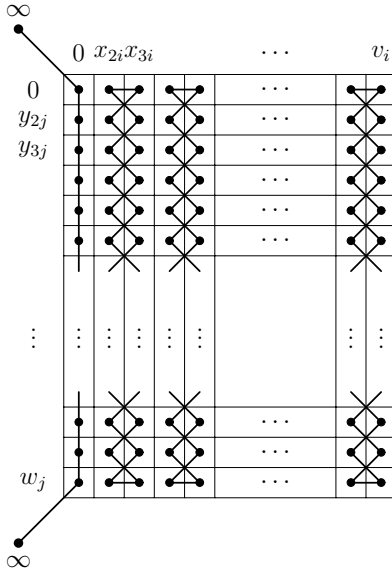


Figure 4.7: $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(0,j)}$

exchange edges of 1-factors in $\mathcal{G}_2 \cup \mathcal{G}_3$ and 1-factors in \mathcal{G}_1 .

Let $G_{(i,0)} \in \mathcal{G}_2$. Consider the union of $G_{(i,0)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$) (Figure 4.8).

It contains r_1 $2m_2$ -cycles and one $(m_2 + 1)$ -cycle. Let C_1 be the $(m_2 + 1)$ -cycle. Exchange their edges via C_1 . Then we obtain (Figures 4.9, 4.10)

$$G_{(i,0)(i,j)} = (G_{(i,0)} \setminus C_1) \cup (G_{(i,j)} \cap C_1); \text{ and}$$

$$G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^* = (G_{(i,j)} \setminus C_1) \cup (G_{(i,0)} \cap C_1).$$

Claim 4.3

- (1) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$ is a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).
- (2) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^*$ is a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).
- (3) Both $G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^*$ have an edge of length 1 ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

Proof.

- (1) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$ is shown in Figure 4.11, so (1) is trivial.
- (2) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^*$ is shown in Figure 4.12. We have $(m_1 - 1, m_2) = 1$ from minimality of p_1 . So, (2) holds from Proposition 2.4.
- (3) Both $G_{(i,0)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ have an edge of length 1 from Claim 4.2. The cycle C_1 doesn't have edges of length 1 because the length of any edge in C_1 is of type $(0, a)$ or ∞ . So, after the exchange of edges, both $G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^*$ still have an edge of length 1. □

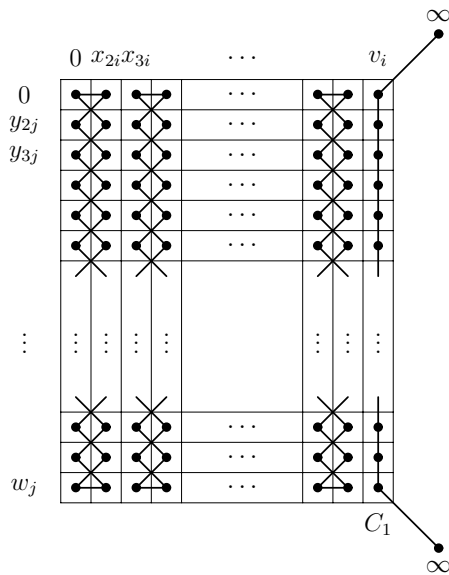


Figure 4.8: $G_{(i,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)}$

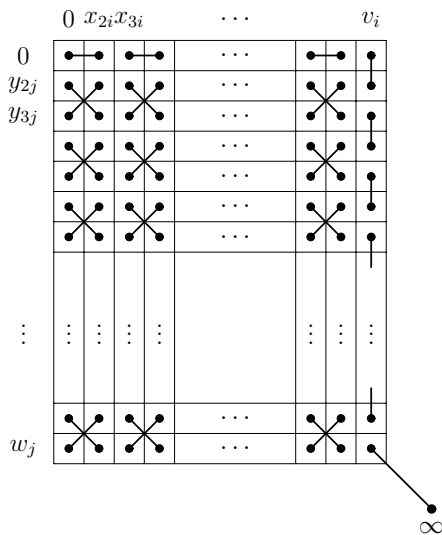


Figure 4.9: $G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$

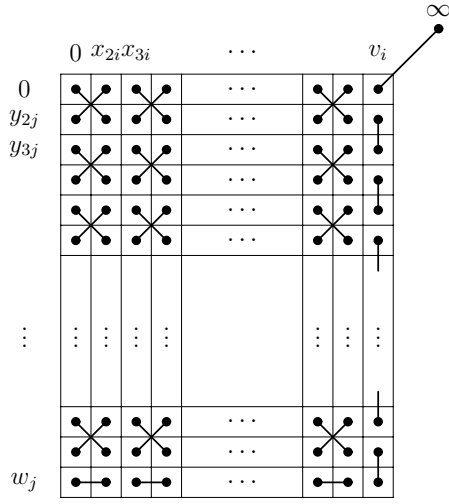


Figure 4.10: $G_{(i,j)}^{*k}(i,0)$

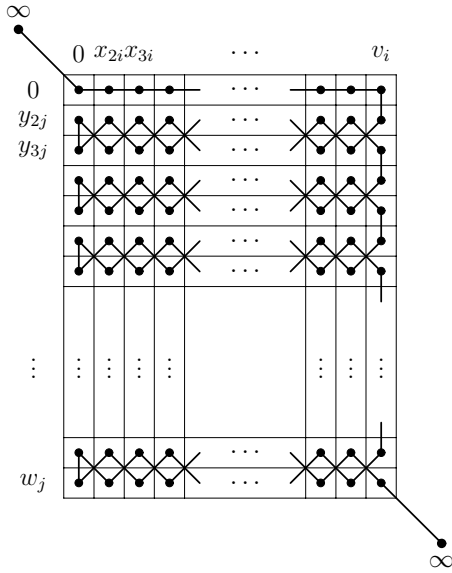


Figure 4.11: $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,0)(i,j)}$

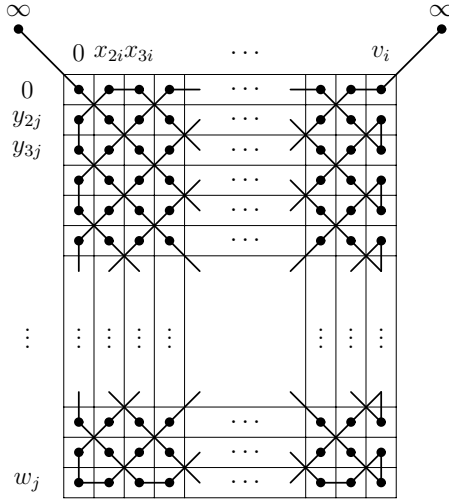


Figure 4.12: $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)(i,0)}^*$

Next, let $G_{(0,j)} \in \mathcal{G}_3$. Consider the union of $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$) (Figure 4.13). It contains r_2 $2m_1$ -cycles and one $(m_1 + 1)$ -cycle. Let C_1 be the $(m_1 + 1)$ -cycle and C_2 the uppermost $2m_1$ -cycle.

If $(m_1, m_2 - 1) = 1$, then exchange edges of $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ via C_1 . If $(m_1, m_2 - 1) \neq 1$, then exchange edges of $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ via C_2 . Then we obtain (Figures 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17)

$$G_{(0,j)(i,j)} = (G_{(0,j)} \setminus C) \cup (G_{(i,j)} \cap C); \text{ and}$$

$$G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^* = (G_{(i,j)} \setminus C) \cup (G_{(0,j)} \cap C),$$

where $C = C_1$ if $(m_1, m_2 - 1) = 1$; $C = C_2$ if $(m_1, m_2 - 1) \neq 1$.

Claim 4.4

- (1) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ is a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).
- (2) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^*$ is a Hamilton cycle ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).
- (3) Both $G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^*$ have an edge of length 1 ($1 \leq i \leq 2r_1, 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$).

Proof. If $(m_1, m_2 - 1) = 1$, then we exchange edges via C_1 . In this case, proofs of (1), (2), (3) are similar to the proof of Claim 4.3. So, we will omit them.

Assume $(m_1, m_2 - 1) \neq 1$. Then we have $(m_1, m_2 - 2) = 1$ because m_1 is prime. Since $(m_1, 2) = 1$, (1) holds from Proposition 2.4. Since $(m_1, m_2 - 2) = 1$, (2) holds from Proposition 2.4.

Next we will prove (3). Both $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)}$ have an edge of length 1 from Claim 4.2. If C_2 has no edges of length 1, $G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^*$ still have an edge of length 1 trivially.

Assume $G_{(0,j)} \cap C_2$ has an edge of length 1. Let $\{(a, 0), (b, c)\}$ be the edge in

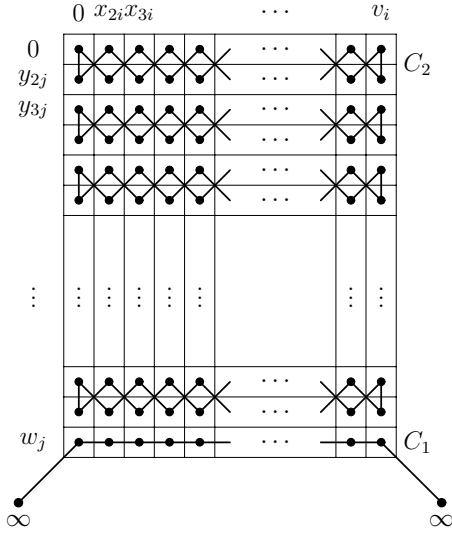


Figure 4.13: $G_{(0,j)} \cup G_{(i,j)}$

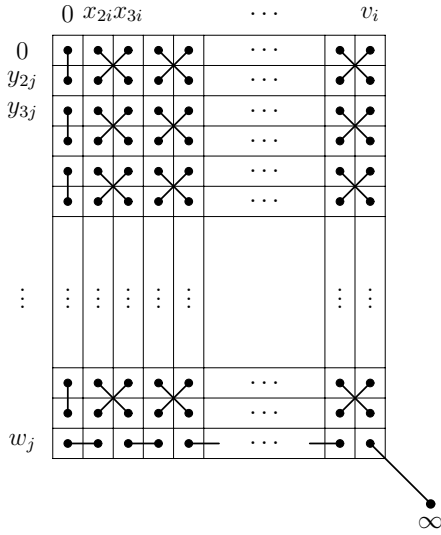


Figure 4.14: $G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ (the case $(m_1, m_2 - 1) = 1$)

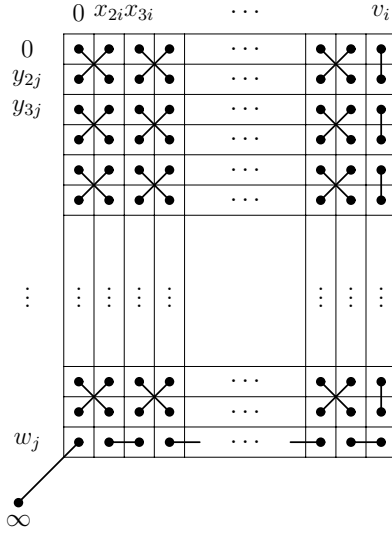


Figure 4.15: $G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^*$ (the case $(m_1, m_2 - 1) = 1$)

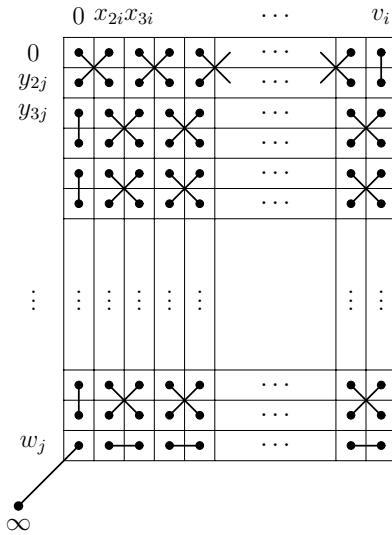


Figure 4.16: $G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ (the case $(m_1, m_2 - 1) \neq 1$)

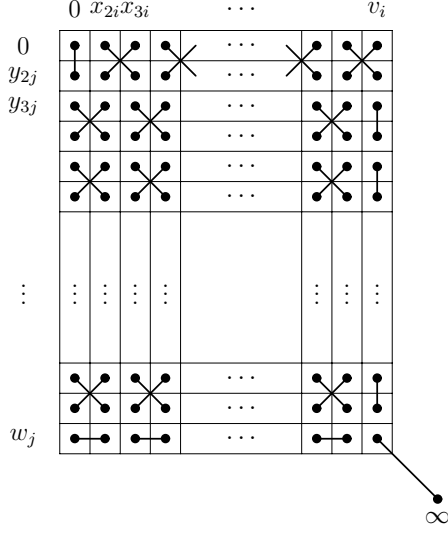


Figure 4.17: $G_{(i,j)}^*$ (the case $(m_1, m_2 - 1) \neq 1$)

$G_{(0,j)} \cap C_2$ of length $1 = (1, 1)$. Then $(b - a, c)$ or $(a - b, -c)$ is $(1, 1)$. There exists an edge $\{e, f\} \in G_i^{(1)}$ of length 1. Then the edges $\{(e, 0), (f, c)\}$ and $\{(f, 0), (e, c)\}$ belong to $G_{(i,j)} \cap C_2$. One of these edges is of length $1 = (1, 1)$. (The other edge is of length $(1, -1)$.) Therefore, after exchanging edges, both $G_{(0,j)(i,j)}$ and $G_{(i,j)(0,j)}^*$ have an edge of length 1.

Assume $G_{(i,j)} \cap C_2$ has an edge of length 1. Then $G_{(0,j)} \cap C_2$ has an edge of length 1.

Therefore we have completed the proof. \square

Now we specify 1-factors $G_{(i,j)} \in \mathcal{G}_1$ for exchanging edges of $G_{(i,0)} \in \mathcal{G}_2$ and $G_{(0,j)} \in \mathcal{G}_3$. For $G_{(i,0)} \in \mathcal{G}_2$, we exchange edges of $G_{(i,0)}$ and $G_{(i,-1)}$ when $1 \leq i \leq r_1$; $G_{(i,0)}$ and $G_{(i,1)}$ when $r_1 + 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1$. For $G_{(0,j)} \in \mathcal{G}_3$, we exchange edges of $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(1,j)}$ when $1 \leq j \leq r_2$; $G_{(0,j)}$ and $G_{(-1,j)}$ when $r_2 + 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2$. Put

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}'_1 &= \{G_{(i,-1)(i,0)}^* \mid 1 \leq i \leq r_1\} \cup \{G_{(i,1)(i,0)}^* \mid r_1 + 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1\} \\ &\quad \cup \{G_{(1,j)(0,j)}^* \mid 1 \leq j \leq r_2\} \cup \{G_{(-1,j)(0,j)}^* \mid r_2 + 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2\} \\ &\quad \cup (\mathcal{G}_1 \setminus \{G_{(i,-1)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq r_1\} \setminus \{G_{(i,1)} \mid r_1 + 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1\} \\ &\quad \quad \setminus \{G_{(1,j)} \mid 1 \leq j \leq r_2\} \setminus \{G_{(-1,j)} \mid r_2 + 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2\}), \\ \mathcal{G}'_2 &= \{G_{(i,0)(i,-1)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq r_1\} \cup \{G_{(i,0)(i,1)} \mid r_1 + 1 \leq i \leq 2r_1\}, \\ \mathcal{G}'_3 &= \{G_{(0,j)(1,j)} \mid 1 \leq j \leq r_2\} \cup \{G_{(0,j)(-1,j)} \mid r_2 + 1 \leq j \leq 2r_2\}, \text{ and} \\ \mathcal{G}' &= \mathcal{G}'_1 \cup \mathcal{G}'_2 \cup \mathcal{G}'_3. \end{aligned}$$

Claim 4.5 *The 1-factors $G \in \mathcal{G}'$ satisfy (1), (2), (3) of property (B_n) , that is, (1) $F_{(0,0)} \cup G$ is a Hamilton cycle in K_n ($G \in \mathcal{G}'$),*

- (2) $\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}'} G = E_n \setminus F_{(0,0)}$,
- (3) G has an edge of length 1 ($G \in \mathcal{G}'$).

Proof. Condition (1) holds from Claims 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4. Since \mathcal{G}' is obtained by exchanging edges in \mathcal{G} , we have $\cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G = \cup_{G \in \mathcal{G}'} G$. So (2) holds from Claim 4.2. Condition (3) holds from Claims 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. \square

Hence K_n satisfies property (B_n) . This completes the proof of Proposition 4.1. \square

Therefore we complete the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their thanks to the referee for helpful comments.

References

- [1] K. Heinrich, M. Kobayashi and G. Nakamura, Dudeney's Round Table Problem, *Annals of Discrete Math.* **92** (1991), 107–125.
- [2] K. Heinrich, D. Langdeau and H. Verrall, Covering 2-paths uniformly, *J. Combin. Des.* **8** (2000), 100–121.
- [3] M. Kobayashi, J. Akiyama and G. Nakamura, On Dudeney's round table problem for $p + 2$, *Ars Combinatoria*, to appear.
- [4] M. Kobayashi, Kiyasu-Z. and G. Nakamura, A solution of Dudeney's round table problem for an even number of people, *J. Combinatorial Theory* (A) **62** (1993), 26–42.
- [5] M. Kobayashi, N. Mutoh, Kiyasu-Z. and G. Nakamura, New Series of Dudeney Sets for $p + 2$ Vertices, *Ars Combinatoria*, to appear.
- [6] G. Nakamura, Kiyasu-Z. and N. Ikeno, Solution of the round table problem for the case of $p^k + 1$ persons, *Commentarii Mathematici Universitatis Sancti Pauli* **29** (1980), 7–20.
- [7] H. Verrall, Pairwise Compatible Hamilton Decompositions of K_n , *J. Combinatorial Theory* (A) **79** (1997) 209–222.

(Received 2/5/2001)