

# Class graphs obtained from residual designs of new symmetric $(71,15,3)$ designs

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## Abstract

It is known that a residual design of a symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  design that satisfies certain conditions leads to a strongly regular graph with parameters  $(35, 16, 6, 8)$ , called a class graph. It is established in [5], [6], [7] and [3] that the 148 symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs that were known until then produce exactly six class graphs. We show that 22 symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs constructed in [4] lead to 344 new residual designs with parameters  $2-(56,12,3)$ , that produce five pairwise non-isomorphic class graphs. The corresponding class graphs are isomorphic to the previously known class graphs, so the 170 known symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs produce exactly six class graphs being strongly regular graphs with parameters  $(35, 16, 6, 8)$ .

*Keywords:* block design, residual design, class graph

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## 1 Introduction and preliminaries

A design  $\mathcal{D}$  with parameters  $t-(v, k, \lambda)$  is a finite incidence structure  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$ , where  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are disjoint sets and  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{B}$ , with the following properties:

1.  $|\mathcal{P}| = v$  and  $1 < k < v - 1$ ,

2. every element (block) of  $\mathcal{B}$  is incident with exactly  $k$  elements (points) of  $\mathcal{P}$ ,
3. every  $t$  distinct points in  $\mathcal{P}$  are together incident with exactly  $\lambda$  blocks of  $\mathcal{B}$ .

If a design is simple, i.e. does not have repeated blocks, then we can identify blocks with subsets of the point set  $\mathcal{P}$  in a natural way. A simple design is called complete if it has  $\binom{v}{k}$  blocks, otherwise it is called incomplete. A balanced incomplete block design (BIBD) is an incomplete design with  $t = 2$ . The number of blocks in a block design is denoted by  $b$ . Each point is contained in exactly  $r = \frac{\lambda(v-1)}{k-1}$  blocks. If  $v = b$  (equivalently,  $r = k$ ), a design is called symmetric.

An isomorphism from one design to another is a bijective mapping of points to points and blocks to blocks which preserves incidence. An isomorphism from a design  $\mathcal{D}$  onto  $\mathcal{D}$  is called an automorphism of  $\mathcal{D}$ . The set of all automorphism of the design  $\mathcal{D}$  is a group called the full automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$ , denoted by  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ . Each subgroup of the  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$  is called an automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$ .

For a symmetric  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -BIBD  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$ , design

$$\text{Res}(\mathcal{D}, B_0) = (\mathcal{P} \setminus B_0, \{B \setminus B_0 \mid B \in \mathcal{B}, B \neq B_0\}, \mathcal{I})$$

is a residual design with respect to the block  $B_0$ .  $\text{Res}(\mathcal{D}, B_0)$  is a  $(v - k, k - \lambda, \lambda)$ -BIBD.

Let  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{I})$  be a simple  $k$ -regular graph with  $v$  vertices.  $\mathcal{G}$  is strongly regular with parameters  $(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$  if every two adjacent vertices have  $\lambda$  common neighbors and every two non-adjacent vertices have  $\mu$  common neighbors. An isomorphism from a graph  $\mathcal{G}_1$  to a graph  $\mathcal{G}_2$  is a bijection from the set of vertices of  $\mathcal{G}_1$  onto the set of vertices of  $\mathcal{G}_2$  that preserves adjacency. An isomorphism from a graph  $\mathcal{G}$  to itself is called an automorphism of  $\mathcal{G}$ . The set of all automorphisms of  $\mathcal{G}$  is called a full automorphism group of  $\mathcal{G}$  and it denoted by  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{G})$ .

In [7], it was shown that there exist 1122 pairwise non-isomorphic 2-(56, 12, 3) designs being the residual designs of the 146 symmetric (71, 15, 3) designs given in [5] and [6]. Furthermore, 2 new symmetric (71, 15, 3) designs were constructed from codes in [3]. They yield 30 pairwise non-isomorphic 2-(56, 12, 3) residual designs.

Since then, 22 new symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs were constructed using a genetic algorithm in [4]. We refer to the designs constructed in [4] as the new symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs.

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -BIBD with exactly three distinct intersection numbers  $k - r + \lambda$ ,  $\rho_1$  and  $\rho_2$ , where  $\rho_1 > \rho_2$ . In this case, as shown in [5], a strongly regular graph can be constructed from this design and it is called the class graph of  $\mathcal{D}$ . Two blocks  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  of the design  $\mathcal{D}$  are equivalent if  $|B_1 \cap B_2| \in \{k, k - r + \lambda\}$  (see [1]). A class graph of  $\mathcal{D}$  is a graph whose vertices are equivalence classes and two vertices are adjacent if two blocks representing the corresponding classes have  $\rho_1$  points in common.

For the computations in this paper we used programs written in GAP [8].

## 2 (56,12,3)-BIBDs

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a symmetric design and let  $B_0$  and  $B_1$  be blocks of  $\mathcal{D}$  belonging to the same orbit of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ . It is shown in [2, Corollary 1] that the residual designs with respect to the blocks  $B_0$  and  $B_1$  are isomorphic. Hence, to construct all residual designs of  $\mathcal{D}$ , up to isomorphism, it is sufficient to construct residual designs with respect to representatives of the  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ -orbits.

The 22 symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs constructed in [4] yield 344 pairwise non-isomorphic  $(56, 12, 3)$ -BIBDs. Including 1122 designs from [7] and 30 designs from [3], this gives 1496  $(56, 12, 3)$ -BIBDs out of which 1495 are pairwise non-isomorphic. We give the information about these 1495 designs in Table 1.

## 3 Class graphs of (56,12,3)-BIBDs

The 148 symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs produce exactly six class graphs, as it is established in [5], [6], [7] and [3]. We present the information about these graphs in Table 2.

The 344 pairwise non-isomorphic  $(56, 12, 3)$ -BIBDs obtained from 22 new symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs [4] have intersection numbers of blocks  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $\{0, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . Since  $r = \frac{\lambda(v-1)}{k-1} = 15$  and  $k - r + \lambda = 12 - 15 + 3 = 0$ , we are interested in intersection numbers  $\{0, 2, 3\}$ , where  $\rho_1 = 3$ ,  $\rho_2 = 2$ .

$ \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) $	$\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ structure	number of designs
336	$(E_8 : F_{21}) \times Z_2$	2
168	$E_8 : F_{21}$	1
48	$E_4 \times A_4$	18
42	$F_{21} \times Z_2$	6
24	$E_4 \times S_3$	12
24	$A_4 \times Z_2$	137
21	$F_{21}$	1
16	$E_{16}$	61
12	$D_{12}$	32
12	$A_4$	20
8	$E_8$	223
6	$Z_6$	120
4	$E_4$	210
3	$Z_3$	101
2	$Z_2$	377
1	$I$	174

Table 1: 1495 pairwise non-isomorphic  $(56,12,3)$ -BIBDs

$ \text{Aut}(\mathcal{G}) $	$\text{Aut}(\mathcal{G})$ structure	number of graphs
40320	$S_8$	1
288	$(A_4 \times A_4) : Z_2$	1
192	$((E_8 : E_4) : Z_3) : Z_2$	1
96	$(E_{16} : Z_2) : Z_3$	1
32	$E_{16} : Z_2$	1
12	$A_4$	1

Table 2: Six pairwise non-isomorphic graphs obtained from residual designs of the 148 symmetric  $(71,15,3)$  designs given in [5], [6], [7] and [3]

Among 344 designs yielded from [4] there are 28 designs with intersection numbers  $\{0, 2, 3\}$ . According to [5], for each of those 28 designs it is possible to construct the corresponding class graph, being a strongly regular graph on 35 vertices, whose vertices are equivalence classes (two blocks  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  are equivalent if  $|B_1 \cap B_2| = 0$ ), two vertices being adjacent if two blocks representing the corresponding classes have  $\rho_1 = 3$  points in common.

We obtain five pairwise non-isomorphic strongly regular graphs with parameters  $(35, 16, 6, 8)$ . Each of these strongly regular graphs is isomorphic to one of the graphs from Table 2 with full automorphism groups of orders

40320, 288, 192, 32 and 12.

## 4 Conclusion

The 22 new symmetric  $(71,15,3)$  designs from [4] do not lead to new class graphs. Hence, up to isomorphism there are exactly six strongly regular graphs with parameters  $(35, 16, 6, 8)$  that can be constructed as class graphs of the 170 known symmetric  $(71, 15, 3)$  designs.

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