

Twofold triple systems that disprove Tutte's conjecture

The *2-block intersection graph* (2-BIG) of a twofold triple system is the graph whose vertex set is the blocks of the *TTS* and two vertices are joined by an edge if they intersect in exactly two elements.

A Hamilton cycle in a 2-BIG is equivalent to a cyclic Gray code, so an interesting problem is to classify which *TTS*s have Hamiltonian 2-BIGs.

The 2-BIGs are themselves interesting graphs: each component is cubic and 3-connected, and a 2-BIG is bipartite exactly when the *TTS* is decomposable to two Steiner triple systems. Any connected, bipartite 2-BIG with no Hamilton cycle is a counter-example to Tutte's conjecture.

Our main result is that for all $v \equiv 1$ or $3 \pmod{6}$ such that $v > N$, there exists a simple, decomposable *TTS*(v) whose 2-BIG is connected but not Hamiltonian.

N is currently about 700 but this has the potential to be improved.

Our result is achieved by embedding a simple, decomposable *TTS*(u) with connected 2-BIG inside another simple, decomposable *TTS*(v) with connected 2-BIG where $v > 2u + c$.

We also use a Tutte-like fragment to construct a decomposable, simple *TTS*(331) whose 2-BIG is connected but not Hamiltonian.

Primary authors: PIKE, David (Memorial University); CAMERON, Rosalind (Memorial University)

Presenter: CAMERON, Rosalind (Memorial University)