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REMARKS ON  $D$ -INTEGRAL COMPLETE MULTIPARTITE GRAPHS

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*Abstract.* A graph is called distance integral (or  $D$ -integral) if all eigenvalues of its distance matrix are integers. In their study of  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs, Yang and Wang (2015) posed two questions on the existence of such graphs. We resolve these questions and present some further results on  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs. We give the first known distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$  with  $p_1 < p_2 < p_3$ , and  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4}$  with  $p_1 < p_2 < p_3 < p_4$ , as well as the infinite classes of distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  with  $s = 5, 6$ .

*Keywords:* distance spectrum; integral graph; distance integral graph; complete multipartite graph

*MSC 2010:* 05C50

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

The study of graphs with integral adjacency spectrum was initiated by Harary and Schwenk in 1974 (see [7]). A survey of papers up to 2002 appears in [3], but more than a hundred new studies on integral graphs have been published in the last ten years.

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a simple, connected graph with  $n = |V|$  vertices. A distance matrix of  $G$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix  $D$ , indexed by  $V$ , such that  $D_{u,v}$  is the distance between the vertices  $u$  and  $v$ . Among the earliest users of a distance matrix in chemistry were Clark and Kettle in 1975 (see [4]). Topological indices based on the distance matrix, in particular its largest eigenvalue and its energy, play a significant role in research (see, for example, [5], [6], [8], [9], [13], [16]). A survey on the distance spectra of graphs appears in [2].

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The distance characteristic polynomial (or  $D$ -polynomial) of  $G$  is  $D_G(x) = |xI_n - D(G)|$ . A graph  $G$  is called  $D$ -integral if all the eigenvalues of its  $D$ -polynomial are integers. Distance integral graphs are studied only in [8], [11] in the case of some special, highly symmetric graphs, and in [10], [14], [15].

Complete multipartite graphs, in the case of integer distance spectrum, are studied in [14], [15]. In [15], Yang and Wang show that the  $D$ -characteristic polynomial of a complete multipartite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r}$  with  $p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_r = n$  vertices is equal to

$$(1.1) \quad P(K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r}; x) = \prod_{i=1}^r (x+2)^{(p_i-1)} \prod_{i=1}^r (x-p_i+2) \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{p_i}{x-p_i+2}\right).$$

If  $p'_1, p'_2, \dots, p'_s$  denote all the distinct integers among  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  and  $a_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , denotes the multiplicity of  $p'_i$  in the family  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$ , then  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r}$  will also be denoted by  $K_{a_1 p'_1, a_2 p'_2, \dots, a_s p'_s}$ .

In [15], the following sufficient and necessary conditions for complete  $r$ -partite graphs to be distance integral are given.

**Theorem 1.1** ([15], Theorem 2.6). *If a complete  $r$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  on  $n$  vertices is distance integral, then there exist integers  $\mu_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , such that  $-2 < p_1 - 2 < \mu_1 < p_2 - 2 < \mu_2 < \dots < p_{s-1} - 2 < \mu_{s-1} < p_s - 2 < \mu_s < \infty$ , and the numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_s$  defined by*

$$(1.2) \quad a_k = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^s (\mu_i - p_k + 2)}{p_k \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^s (p_i - p_k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, s$$

are positive integers.

Conversely, suppose that there exist integers  $\mu_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , such that  $-2 < p_1 - 2 < \mu_1 < p_2 - 2 < \mu_2 < \dots < p_{s-1} - 2 < \mu_{s-1} < p_s - 2 < \mu_s < \infty$  and that the numbers  $a_k$ , in (1.2) are positive integers. Then the complete  $r$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  is distance integral.

**Corollary 1.1** ([15], Corollary 2.9). *For any positive integer  $q$ , the complete  $r$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1 q, p_2 q, \dots, p_r q} = K_{a_1 p_1 q, a_2 p_2 q, \dots, a_s p_s q}$  is distance integral if and only if the complete  $r$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  is distance integral.*

**Theorem 1.2** ([15], Theorem 3.2). *Let a complete  $r$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  be distance integral with eigenvalues  $\mu_i$ . Let  $\mu_i \geq 0$  and  $p_i > 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , be integers such that  $-2 < p_1 - 2 < \mu_1 < p_2 - 2 < \mu_2 < \dots < p_{s-1} - 2 < \mu_{s-1} < p_s - 2 < \mu_s < \infty$  and let*

$$(1.3) \quad a_k = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^s (\mu_i - p_k + 2)}{p_k \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^s (p_i - p_k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, s$$

be positive integers. Then for

$$(1.4) \quad b_k = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{s-1} (\mu_i - p_k + 2)(\mu_s - p_k + 2 + rt)}{p_k \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^s (p_i - p_k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, s,$$

$$(1.5) \quad r = \text{LCM}(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_s), \quad r_k = \frac{p_k \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^s (p_i - p_k)}{d_k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, s,$$

$$(1.6) \quad d_k = \text{GCD} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{s-1} (\mu_i - p_k + 2), p_k \prod_{i=1, i \neq k}^s (p_i - p_k) \right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, s,$$

the complete  $m$ -partite graph  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m} = K_{b_1 p_1, b_2 p_2, \dots, b_s p_s}$  is distance integral for every nonnegative integer  $t$  with eigenvalues  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_{s-1}, \mu'_s = \mu_s + rt$ .

In [15], Yang and Wang concluded their study with the following questions. The first of them is answered affirmatively in [14], the other we answer affirmatively here.

**Question 1.1** ([15], Question 4.1). Are there any distance integral complete  $r$ -partite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  for  $s \geq 5$ ?

**Question 1.2** ([15], Question 4.2). Are there any distance integral complete  $r$ -partite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r} = K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  with  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_s = 1$  for  $s \geq 3$ ?

The rest of the present paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we study complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2}$  and give sufficient and necessary conditions for their distance integrality. Our conditions are more easily applicable than the conditions published in Theorem 3.1 of [15]. In Section 3, we give the first known distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$  with  $p_1 < p_2 < p_3$ , and  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4}$  with  $p_1 < p_2 < p_3 < p_4$ . In Section 4, we give infinite classes of distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s}$  with  $s = 5, 6$ , which are different from those of Yang and Wang in [14].

## 2. DISTANCE INTEGRAL COMPLETE MULTIPARTITE GRAPHS $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2}$

Let us start with the definition of the join of graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  and the notation of the spectrum of the adjacency matrix  $A(G)$  of  $G$  and the spectrum of the distance matrix  $D(G)$  of  $G$ .

**Definition 2.1.** The join  $G_1 \nabla G_2$  of graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is the graph obtained from the union of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  by adding the edges joining every vertex of  $G_1$  to every vertex of  $G_2$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_t$  be  $t$  distinct eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix  $A(G)$  of  $G$  with the corresponding multiplicities  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_t$ . The spectrum of  $A(G)$  is also called the spectrum of  $G$  and denoted by  $\text{Spec}(G) = \{\lambda_1^{(k_1)}, \lambda_2^{(k_2)}, \dots, \lambda_t^{(k_t)}\}$ .

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $\mu_1 < \mu_2 < \dots < \mu_t$  be  $t$  distinct eigenvalues of the distance matrix  $D(G)$  of  $G$  with the corresponding multiplicities  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_t$ . The spectrum of  $D(G)$  is also called the distance spectrum of  $G$  and denoted by  $\text{Spec}_D(G) = \{\mu_1^{(k_1)}, \mu_2^{(k_2)}, \dots, \mu_t^{(k_t)}\}$ .

The following theorem is useful for getting conditions for  $D$ -integrality of  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2}$ .

**Theorem 2.1** ([12]). For  $i = 1, 2$ , let  $G_i$  be an  $r_i$ -regular graph with  $n_i$  vertices and the eigenvalues  $\lambda_{i,1} = r_i \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{i,n_i}$  of the adjacency matrix of  $G_i$ . The distance spectrum of  $G_1 \nabla G_2$  consists of the eigenvalues  $-\lambda_{i,j} - 2$  for  $i = 1, 2$  and  $j = 2, 3, \dots, n_i$ , and two further simple eigenvalues  $n_1 + n_2 - 2 - (r_1 + r_2)/2 \pm \sqrt{(n_1 - n_2 - (r_1 - r_2)/2)^2 + n_1 n_2}$ .

It is clear that  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2} = K_{a_1 p_1} \nabla K_{a_2 p_2}$ . Using the above theorem for  $K_{a_1 p_1}$ ,  $K_{a_2 p_2}$ , we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.2.** The graph  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2}$  is  $D$ -integral if and only if

$$\frac{(a_1 + 1)p_1 + (a_2 + 1)p_2 - 4}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{((a_1 + 1)p_1 - (a_2 + 1)p_2)^2}{4} + a_1 a_2 p_1 p_2}$$

are integers and its distance spectrum is

$$\left\{ \frac{(a_1 + 1)p_1 + (a_2 + 1)p_2 - 4}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{((a_1 + 1)p_1 - (a_2 + 1)p_2)^2}{4} + a_1 a_2 p_1 p_2}, \right. \\ \left. (p_1 - 2)^{(a_1 - 1)}, (p_2 - 2)^{(a_2 - 1)}, (-2)^{(a_1 p_1 - a_1 + a_2 p_2 - a_2)} \right\}.$$

**Proof.** The  $A$ -spectrum of  $K_{a_1 p_1}$  is  $\{p_1(a_1 - 1), 0^{(p_1 a_1 - a_1)}, (-p_1)^{(a_1 - 1)}\}$  and the  $A$ -spectrum of  $K_{a_2 p_2}$  is  $\{p_2(a_2 - 1), 0^{(p_2 a_2 - a_2)}, (-p_2)^{(a_2 - 1)}\}$ . Now it is sufficient to use Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

Using  $(a_1, a_2) = (1, 1), (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 1)$  in Theorem 2.2, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.1.**

1. The graph  $K_{p_1, p_2}$  is  $D$ -integral if and only if  $p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2$  is a perfect square. Moreover, its distance spectrum is  $\{(-2)^{(p_1+p_2-2)}, p_1 + p_2 - 2 \pm \sqrt{p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2}\}$ .
2. The only distance integral graph among stars is  $K_2$ .
3. The graph  $K_{2p_1, p_2}$  is distance integral if and only if  $9p_1^2 - 4p_1 p_2 + 4p_2^2$  is a perfect square. Moreover, its distance spectrum is  $\{(-2)^{(2p_1+p_2-3)}, p_1 - 2, (3p_1 + 2p_2 - 4 \pm \sqrt{9p_1^2 - 4p_1 p_2 + 4p_2^2})/2\}$ .
4. The graph  $K_{2p_1, 2p_2}$  is distance integral if and only if  $9p_1^2 - 2p_1 p_2 + 9p_2^2$  is a perfect square. Moreover, its distance spectrum is  $\{(-2)^{(2p_1+2p_2-4)}, p_1 - 2, p_2 - 2, (3p_1 + 3p_2 - 4 \pm \sqrt{9p_1^2 - 2p_1 p_2 + 9p_2^2})/2\}$ .
5. The graph  $K_{3p_1, p_2}$  is distance integral if and only if  $4p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2$  is a perfect square. Moreover, its distance spectrum is  $\{(-2)^{(3p_1+p_2-4)}, (p_1 - 2)^2, 2p_1 + p_2 - 2 \pm \sqrt{4p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2}\}$ .

The following corollary gives sufficient and necessary conditions for complete bipartite graphs to be  $D$ -integral.

**Corollary 2.2.**  $K_{p_1, p_2}$  is  $D$ -integral if and only if there exist integers  $k, u$  and  $v$  such that  $p_1 = k(v^2 + 2uv)$ ,  $p_2 = k(v^2 - u^2)$ , or  $p_1 = k(v^2 - u^2)$ ,  $p_2 = k(v^2 + 2uv)$ , where  $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Q}$  are such that  $3k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Part 1 of Corollary 2.1 yields that the necessary and sufficient condition for  $K_{p_1, p_2}$  to be  $D$ -integral is that for some integer  $r$ ,  $p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2 = r^2$ . According to [1], page 90, all integral solutions to  $p_1^2 - p_1 p_2 + p_2^2 = r^2$  are given by  $p_1 = k(v^2 + 2uv)$ ,  $p_2 = k(v^2 - u^2)$ , or  $p_1 = k(v^2 - u^2)$ ,  $p_2 = k(v^2 + 2uv)$ , where  $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Q}$  is such that  $3k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . □

### 3. DISTANCE INTEGRAL COMPLETE MULTIPARTITE GRAPHS

$$K_{p_1, p_2, p_3} \text{ AND } K_{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4}$$

Using computers, we have found 292  $D$ -integral complete 3-partite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$  for  $p_1 < p_2 < p_3 \leq 1,000$ . The primitive graphs (those, where  $\text{GCD}(p_1, p_2, p_3) = 1$ ) with less than 180 vertices are given in Table 1, rows 2–7.

Using Theorem 1.2, we can construct infinite classes of  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs for each graph from Table 1.

**Corollary 3.1.** Let  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$  be a  $D$ -integral complete 3-partite graph from Table 1, rows 2–4. Then  $K_{b_1 p_1, b_2 p_2, b_3 p_3}$  is a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph for every  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $b_1, b_2, b_3$  are those of Table 1, rows 9–11.

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$p_1$	12	7	28	25	20	23	39	35
$p_2$	21	33	33	30	39	39	48	54
$p_3$	28	81	60	81	84	81	56	75
$\mu_1$	12	7	28	25	22	25	40	38
$\mu_2$	22	42	42	43	50	50	50	61
$\mu_3$	82	187	166	198	208	205	190	223
$r$	504	9,828	3,780	5,950	11,970	11,592	2,448	8,550
$b_1$	$1 + 7t$	$1 + 54t$	$1 + 27t$	$1 + 34t$	$1 + 63t$	$1 + 63t$	$1 + 16t$	$1 + 45t$
$b_2$	$1 + 8t$	$1 + 63t$	$1 + 28t$	$1 + 35t$	$1 + 70t$	$1 + 69t$	$1 + 17t$	$1 + 50t$
$b_3$	$1 + 9t$	$1 + 91t$	$1 + 35t$	$1 + 50t$	$1 + 95t$	$1 + 92t$	$1 + 18t$	$1 + 57t$

Table 1.  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$ .

PROOF. It is sufficient to use the formulas (1.3)–(1.6) from Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

Similarly, using computers, we have found the  $D$ -integral complete 4-partite graph  $K_{143, 192, 228, 468}$ . Using Theorem 1.2, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.2.** *The graph  $K_{(1+1, 368t) \cdot 143, (1+1, 425t) \cdot 192, (1+1, 470t) \cdot 228, (1+1, 862t) \cdot 468}$  is a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph for every  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

PROOF. It is sufficient to use (1.3)–(1.6) from Theorem 1.2 for  $\mu_1 = 154$ ,  $\mu_2 = 206$ ,  $\mu_3 = 328$ ,  $\mu_4 = 1, 366$ ,  $r = 1, 675, 800$ .  $\square$

#### 4. DISTANCE INTEGRAL COMPLETE MULTIPARTITE GRAPHS

$$K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, \dots, a_s p_s} \text{ WITH } s = 5, 6$$

Using a computer search based on Theorem 1.1, we have found examples of  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, a_3 p_3, a_4 p_4, a_5 p_5}$ ; they are given in Table 2, rows 2–11. Using Theorem 1.2, we can construct infinite classes of  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs for each graph from Table 2.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, a_3 p_3, a_4 p_4, a_5 p_5}$  be a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph from Table 2, rows 2–11. Then  $K_{b_1 p_1, b_2 p_2, b_3 p_3, b_4 p_4, b_5 p_5}$  is a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph for every  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5$  are those of Table 2, rows 18–22.*

PROOF. It is sufficient to use (1.3)–(1.6) from Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

Similarly, using a computer search based on Theorem 1.1, we have found an example of  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph  $K_{a_1 p_1, a_2 p_2, a_3 p_3, a_4 p_4, a_5 p_5, a_6 p_6}$ .

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$a_1$	11	31	44	56	23	39	44
$p_1$	3	11	4	10	10	7	8
$a_2$	1	9	52	2	39	37	52
$p_2$	12	35	8	22	14	10	16
$a_3$	2	2	12	13	6	23	12
$p_3$	18	45	23	37	22	23	46
$a_4$	3	3	11	9	6	31	11
$p_4$	28	49	25	46	35	28	50
$a_5$	1	1	6	3	21	7	6
$p_5$	39	56	29	57	55	50	58
$\mu_1$	4	19	3	17	9	6	8
$\mu_2$	11	40	13	22	18	12	28
$\mu_3$	19	45	22	40	26	23	46
$\mu_4$	34	53	26	53	38	44	54
$\mu_5$	226	978	1,332	1,700	2,308	2,413	2,666
$r$	37,800	10,445,820	22,621,305	100,792,440	8,208,200	1,721,720	45,242,610
$b_1$	$11 + 1,848t$	$31 + 334,180t$	$44 + 748,374t$	$56 + 3,335,920t$	$23 + 82,082t$	$39 + 27,885t$	$44 + 748,374t$
$b_2$	$1 + 175t$	$9 + 99,484t$	$52 + 887,110t$	$2 + 119,991t$	$39 + 139,425t$	$37 + 26,488t$	$52 + 887,110t$
$b_3$	$2 + 360t$	$2 + 22,344t$	$12 + 207,060t$	$13 + 786,968t$	$6 + 21,525t$	$23 + 16,555t$	$12 + 207,060t$
$b_4$	$3 + 567t$	$3 + 33,660t$	$11 + 190,095t$	$9 + 547,785t$	$6 + 21,648t$	$31 + 22,360t$	$11 + 190,095t$
$b_5$	$1 + 200t$	$1 + 11,305t$	$6 + 104,006t$	$3 + 183,816t$	$21 + 76,440t$	$7 + 5,096t$	$6 + 104,006t$

Table 2.  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1p_1, a_2p_2, a_3p_3, a_4p_4, a_5p_5}$ .

**Corollary 4.2.** 1. The graph  $K_{722,608-4,706,668-8,364,041-14,73,308-23,73,420-25,214,524-32}$  is a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph and  $\mu_1 = 3$ ,  $\mu_2 = 9$ ,  $\mu_3 = 18$ ,  $\mu_4 = 22$ ,  $\mu_5 = 26$ ,  $\mu_6 = 24, 026, 718$ .

2. Let  $b_1 = 722, 608 + 825, 792t$ ,  $b_2 = 706, 668 + 807, 576t$ ,  $b_3 = 364, 041 + 416, 024t$ ,  $b_4 = 73, 308 + 83, 776t$ ,  $b_5 = 73, 420 + 83, 904t$ ,  $b_6 = 214, 524 + 245, 157t$ . The graph  $K_{b_1-4, b_2-8, b_3-14, b_4-23, b_5-25, b_6-32}$  is a  $D$ -integral complete multipartite graph for every  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof.** For case 1 it is sufficient to use Theorem 1.1. For Case 2 it is sufficient to use (1.3)–(1.6) from Theorem 1.2 ( $r = 27, 457, 584$ ).  $\square$

## 5. CONCLUSION

In the paper, we give new results for  $D$ -integrality of complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1p_1, a_2p_2, \dots, a_sp_s}$ , where  $s = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ , and answer affirmatively questions 4.1 and 4.2 of Yang and Wang (see [15]). However, when  $s > 6$ , we have not found such  $D$ -integral graphs. Thus, we raise the following questions.

**Question 5.1.** Are there any distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1p_1, a_2p_2, \dots, a_sp_s}$  for  $s \geq 7$ ?

**Question 5.2.** Are there any distance integral complete multipartite graphs  $K_{a_1p_1, a_2p_2, \dots, a_sp_s}$  with  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_s = 1$  for  $s \geq 5$ ?



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