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PARITY OF ORTHOGONAL PERMUTATIONS  
Aleš DRÁPAL, Tomáš KEPKA

Abstract: The parity of orthogonal permutations of some finite abelian groups is investigated.

Key words: Parity, orthogonal, permutation.

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This paper is a continuation of [2]. Here, we are investigating the parity of some orthogonal permutations which are not automorphisms. Again, the results yield constructions of idempotent quasigroups with prescribed order and parity of translations.

7. The case  $n=15$ . Let  $G=Z_{15}(+)$ . Consider the following two 14-cycles  $f$  and  $g$ :

$f=(1\ 13\ 3\ 11\ 5\ 9\ 7\ 8\ 10\ 6\ 12\ 4\ 14\ 2)$ ,

$g=(1\ 3\ 7\ 2\ 5\ 11\ 10\ 4\ 9\ 6\ 13\ 14\ 12\ 8)$ .

It is easy to check that  $(f,g)$  is a pair of orthogonal permutations of  $C$  and that  $\text{sgn}(g) = -1 = \text{sgn}(f)$ .

7.1. Proposition.  $\mathcal{O}(G,f)$  is an orthostrophic idempotent quasigroup of type (4) and order 15.

Proof. See [2, Lemma 3.6(iv)].

8. The case  $n \leq 5$ .

8.1. Proposition. (i) Every idempotent quasigroup of order 1 is of type (1).

(ii) There is no idempotent quasigroup of order 2.

(iii) Every idempotent quasigroup of order 3 is of type (4).

(iv) Every idempotent quasigroup of order 4 is of type (1).

Proof. (i) and (ii). Obvious.

(iii) Every translation is a 2-cycle.

(iv) Every translation is a 3-cycle.

8.2. Proposition. There is no idempotent quasigroup of order 5 and type (1).

Proof. Let, on the contrary,  $Q(\ast)$  be such a quasigroup. Then its every (left or right) translation  $f$  is composed from two 2-cycles, and hence  $f^2=1$ . Therefore  $a\ast b=c$  implies  $c\ast b=a$  and  $c\ast a=b$  for any  $a,b,c \in Q$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume  $Q=\{1,2,3,4,5\}$  and  $\mathcal{L}(1, Q(\ast))=(2\ 3)(4\ 5)$ . Then  $2\ast 3=1$ , and hence  $2\ast 1=3$ . This implies  $\mathcal{L}(2, Q(\ast))=(1\ 3)(4\ 5)$ , a contradiction.

### 9. The case $n=6$

9.1. Proposition. There is no idempotent quasigroup of order 6 such that each right translation is an odd permutation.

Proof. Suppose that  $Q$  is such a quasigroup. Let  $R=\{\mathcal{R}(a, Q); a \in Q\}$ . For any  $f \in R$ ,  $f=(a\ b)(c\ d\ e)$ , we denote the set  $\{a, b\}$  by  $D(f)$  and the set  $\{c, d, e\}$  by  $T(f)$ . For  $a, b \in Q$ , let  $f_{a,b}$  denote the (unique) permutation  $f \in R$  with  $f(a) = b$ . Obviously,  $\{a, b\} \subseteq T(f_{a,b})$  implies  $\{a, b\} \subseteq T(f_{b,a})$ .

(a) Suppose there are  $f, g \in R$ ,  $f \neq g$ , such that  $T(f) = T(g) = T$ . Put  $D = (D(f) \cup D(g)) - (D(f) \cap D(g))$ . As  $D(f) \neq D(g)$ , we have  $Q = T \cup D(f) \cup D(g)$ , and hence  $\text{card}(D) = 2$ . If  $h \in R$ ,  $f \neq h \neq g$ , then  $\max(\text{card}(T(h) \cap D(f)), \text{card}(T(h) \cap D(g)), \text{card}(T(h) \cap T)) \leq 1$ , and therefore  $D \subseteq T(h)$ . This allows for only two distinct translations  $h$ , a contradiction.

(b) The sets  $D(f)$ ,  $f \in R$  induce a graph on  $Q$ . Let  $G$  denote the graph complementary to such a graph. Then  $G$  has 9 edges and  $\text{deg}_G(x) \neq 1$  for any  $x \in Q$ . Moreover, by (a)  $\text{deg}_G(x) \neq 2$  for any  $x \in Q$ . Suppose that there exists  $a \in Q$  with  $\text{deg}_G(a) = 0$ . The complete graph on five points has 10 edges, and therefore there is exactly one translation  $f \in R$  such that  $a \notin D(f)$ . For any  $g \in R$ ,  $f \neq g$ , we have  $a \notin T(g)$ ,  $T(f) \neq T(g)$  and  $\text{card}(D(f) \cap T(g)) \leq 1$ . Hence  $\text{card}(T(g) \cap T(f)) = 2$ . However, this allows for at most three different translations  $g$ , a contradiction.

(c) By (a) and (b) we have  $\text{deg}_G(x) \geq 3$  for any  $x \in G$ . By counting the edges we find out that the equality has to take place. Choose any  $a \in Q$  and let  $b, c, d$  be its adjacent points. Then either  $f_{b,a} = f_{a,d}$  or  $f_{b,a} = f_{a,c}$ . Assume the latter one. Then  $f_{b,a} = f_{a,c} = f_{c,b}$ ,  $f_{d,a} = f_{a,b} = f_{b,d}$ ,  $f_{c,a} = f_{a,d} = f_{d,c}$  and  $f_{d,b} = f_{b,c} = f_{c,d}$ . Therefore  $G$  has a complete subgraph on four points. However, such a graph cannot be extended to a 3-regular graph on six points.

9.2. Corollary. There is no idempotent quasigroup of order 6 and type (2) or (3) or (4).

9.3. Example. Consider the following quasigroup Q:

Q	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	3	4	5	6	2
2	3	2	6	1	4	5
3	6	5	3	2	1	4
4	5	6	2	4	3	1
5	2	4	1	6	5	3
6	4	1	5	3	2	6

Then Q is an idempotent quasigroup of order 6 and type (1). (If P is a prolongation of Q, then  $\mathcal{M}_1(P) = \mathcal{M}_r(P) = \mathcal{M}(P) = \mathcal{S}(P)$ ).

9.4. Example. Consider the following quasigroup Q:

Q	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	3	4	5	6	2
2	4	2	1	6	3	5
3	5	6	3	1	2	4
4	6	5	2	4	1	3
5	2	4	6	3	5	1
6	3	1	5	2	4	6

The left translations of Q are even permutations as well as the right translation by 1. On the other hand, the remaining five right translations are odd permutations.

### 10. Numbers divisible by 8

10.1. Let  $n \geq 2$  and let  $m \geq 1$  be odd. Let  $s = 2^n m$ ,  $t = 2^{n-1} m$  and  $G = G(+) = Z_2(+) \times Z_s(+)$ . Put  $A = \{(0, i); 0 \leq i < t\}$ ,  $B = \{(0, i); t \leq i < s\}$ ,  $C = \{(1, i); 0 \leq i < t-1\}$ ,  $D = \{(1, i); t-1 \leq i < s-1\}$  and  $E = \{(1, s-1)\}$ . Hence  $\text{card}(A) = \text{card}(B) = \text{card}(D) = t$ ,  $\text{card}(C) = t-1$ ,  $\text{card}(E) = 1$  and G is the disjoint union of these sets,  $G = A \cup B \cup C \cup D \cup E$ . Now, we shall define a transformation q of G as follows:

- (i)  $q((0, i)) = (0, i)$  for every  $(0, i) \in A$ ; hence  $q|_A = 1_A$  and  $q(A) = A$ .
- (ii)  $q((0, i)) = (1, i)$  for every  $(0, i) \in B$ ; hence  $q|_B = \mathcal{L}((1, 0), Q)|_B$  and  $q(B) = (D \cup E) - \{(1, t-1)\}$ .
- (iii)  $q((1, i)) = (1, i+1)$  for every  $(1, i) \in C$ ; hence  $q|_C = \mathcal{L}((0, 1), G)|_C$  and  $q(C) = (C \cup \{(1, t-1)\}) - \{(1, 0)\}$ .
- (iv)  $q((1, i)) = (0, i+1)$  for every  $(1, i) \in D$ ; hence  $q|_D = \mathcal{L}((1, 1), G)|_D$  and  $q(D) = B$ .
- (v)  $q((1, s-1)) = (1, 0)$ ; hence  $q|_E = \mathcal{L}((0, 1), G)|_E$  and  $q(E) = \{(1, 0)\}$ .

10.1.1. Lemma.  $q$  is a permutation of  $G$  and  $\text{sgn}(q) = -1$ .

Proof. Clearly,  $q(G) = G$  and  $q$  is a permutation. On the other hand, it is easy to check that  $q$  is a cycle of length  $3t$ , so that  $q$  is odd.

Now, put  $f(x) = q(-x)$  and  $g(x) = q(x) + x$  for every  $x \in G$ .

10.1.2. Lemma. Both  $f$  and  $g$  are permutations of  $G$ ,  $(f, g)$  is a pair of orthogonal permutations and  $\text{sgn}(f) = -1$ .

Proof. First,  $f$  is a composition of  $q$  and the even permutation  $x \rightarrow -x$ . Consequently,  $f$  is a permutation and  $\text{sgn}(f) = -1$ . Now, define four transformations of  $G$  by  $h_1(x) = 2x$ ,  $h_2(x) = 2x + (1, 0)$ ,  $h_3(x) = 2x + (0, 1)$  and  $h_4(x) = 2x + (1, 1)$ . Then  $g|_A = h_1|_A$ ,  $g|_B = h_2|_B$ ,  $g|_C = h_3|_C$ ,  $g|_D = h_4|_D$  and  $g|_E = h_3|_E$ . Further,  $h_1(a) \neq h_1(b)$ , if  $a, b \in A$  (resp.  $B, C \cup E, D$ ) and  $a \neq b$ , and  $(1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (0, s-1), (1, s-1) \notin h_1(G)$ . Using this, it is easy to see that  $g$  is injective, and therefore  $g$  is a permutation.

10.1.3. Lemma.  $\text{sgn}(g) = -1$ .

Proof. Let  $<$  denote the sharp lexicographical ordering on  $G$  ( $(i, j) < (k, l)$  iff either  $i < k$  or  $i = k$  and  $j < l$ ). Put  $M = \{x, y\}$ ;  $x, y \in G$ ,  $x < y$ ,  $g(x) > g(y)$  and  $d = \text{card}(M)$ . Then  $\text{sgn}(g) = (-1)^d$  and  $d = \sum d(U, V)$ ,  $U, V \in \{A, B, C, D, E\}$ ,  $d(U, V) = \text{card}((U \times V) \cap M)$ . Clearly,  $d(A, A) = d(A, B) = d(A, D) = d(A, E) = d(B, A) = d(B, B) = d(C, A) = d(C, B) = d(C, C) = d(C, D) = d(C, E) = d(D, A) = d(D, B) = d(D, C) = d(E, A) = d(E, B) = d(E, C) = d(E, D) = d(E, E) = 0$ . Further,  $d(A, C) = \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} i = t(t-1)/2 = 2^{n-2}m(2^{n-1}m-1)$ ,  $d(B, C) = \text{card}(B \times C) = t(t-1) = 2^{n-1}m(2^{n-1}m-1)$ ,  $d(B, D) = \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} i = t(t-1)/2 = 2^{n-2}m(2^{n-1}m-1)$ ,  $d(B, E) = \text{card}(B) = t = 2^{n-1}m$ ,  $d(D, D) = t-1 = 2^{n-1}m-1$ ,  $d(D, E) = \text{card}(D) = t = 2^{n-1}m$ . From this,  $d = (s+1)t-1 = (2^{n+1}m+1)2^{n-1}m-1$  is odd.

10.1.4. Lemma.  $f^4$  is a 5-cycle.

Proof.  $f$  is composed from  $t-2$  4-cycles of the form  $((0, i) (1, s-i) (1, i+1) (0, s-i))$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq t-2$ , from the 5-cycle  $((0, t-1) (1, t+1) (0, t) (1, t) (0, t+1))$  and from the 2-cycle  $((1, 0) (1, 1))$ .

10.2. Proposition. Let  $k \geq 3$  and let  $m \geq 1$  be odd. Then there exists an orthostrophic idempotent quasigroup  $Q$  of order  $2^k m$  and type (4). Moreover,  $\mathcal{B}(a, Q)^4$  is a 5-cycle for any  $a \in Q$ .

10.3. Let  $m=1$ ,  $s=2^n$ ,  $t=1^{n-1}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .

10.3.1. Lemma.  $g$  contains the following  $n+2$ -cycle:

$((0, s-1) \dots (1, s-2^{i-1}-1) \dots (1, s-1))$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ .

Proof.  $g((1, s-1)) = (1, s-2j+1)$  for any  $2 \leq j \leq t+1$  and  $g((0, s-1)) = (1, s-2)$ ,  $g((1, s-1)) = (0, s-1)$ .

Now, put  $H = G - \{(1, s-1)\}$  and define a permutation  $h$  of  $H$  by  $h(x) = g(x)$  for

every  $x \in H$ ,  $x \neq (1, t-1)$  and  $h((1, t-1)) = (0, s-1)$ .

10.3.2. Lemma. Let  $a, a_1, \dots, a_n \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $i = a_1 2^{n-1} + a_2 2^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1} 2 + a_n$ ,  $0 \leq i < s$ . Then  $h((a, i)) = (a_1, 2i+a)$  ( $2i+a$  computed in  $Z_s$ ).

Proof. Easy.

10.3.3. Lemma. Let  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $i = a_1 2^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} 2 + a_n$ . For  $0 \leq j \leq n$ , put  $x_j = (a_j, 2^j i + 2^{j-1} a_0 + 2^{j-2} a_1 + \dots + 2a_{j-2} + a_{j-1})$ . Then  $x_0 = (a_0, i)$  and  $h(x_k) = x_{k+1}$  for any  $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ ,  $h(x_n) = x_0$ .

Proof. Use 10.3.2.

10.3.4. Lemma.  $h^{n+1} = 1_H$ .

Proof. This is clear from 10.3.3.

10.3.5. Lemma.  $g^{n+1}$  is an  $n+2$ -cycle.

Proof. The result is an easy consequence of the preceding observations.

## 11. Numbers divisible by 4

11.1. Let  $H = H(+) = Z_2(+) \times Z_2(+)$  and let  $Q$  be a finite idempotent quasigroup of order  $m \geq 3$ . Put  $G = H(+) \times Q$  and consider the following four 2-cycles from  $\mathcal{S}(H)$ :  $f = ((0, 0) (0, 1))$ ,  $g = ((0, 1) (1, 1))$ ,  $h = ((1, 0) (1, 1))$ ,  $k = ((0, 1) (1, 0))$ . Define an operation  $\circ$  on  $H$  by  $a \circ b = k(g(a) + h(b))$ .

11.1.1. Lemma.  $H(\circ)$  is an idempotent quasigroup and every of its translations is an even permutation.

Proof. Easy.

Put  $G(\circ) = H(\circ) \times Q$  and let  $t \in \mathcal{S}(Q)$  be a regular permutation (i.e.  $t$  fixes no element). Now, we shall define an operation  $\star$  on  $G$  as follows:

- (i)  $(a, x) \star (b, y) = (a+b, xy)$  for all  $a, b \in H$ ,  $x, y \in Q$ ,  $x \neq y \neq t(x)$ .
- (ii)  $(a, x) \star (b, x) = (a \circ b, x)$  for all  $a, b \in H$  and  $x \in Q$ .
- (iii)  $(a, x) \star (b, t(x)) = (f(a+b), xt(x))$  for all  $a, b \in H$ ,  $x \in Q$ .

11.1.2. Lemma.  $G(\star)$  is an idempotent quasigroup and every of its translations is an odd permutation.

Proof. From 6.1.1 and from the fact that  $H$  together with the operation  $(a, b) \rightarrow f(a+b)$  is a quasigroup, it is easy to see that  $G(\star)$  is an idempotent quasigroup. Now, let  $a \in H$  and  $x \in Q$ . Put  $q = \mathcal{L}((a, x), G(\star))$  and  $p = \mathcal{L}((a, x), G(\circ))$ . Then  $p, p^{-1}$  are even permutations and  $\text{sgn}(qp^{-1}) = \text{sgn}(q)$ . But  $qp^{-1}(\dots, y) = (\dots, y)$  for each  $y \in Q$ , and hence there are permutations  $w_y$  of the set  $H$  such that  $qp^{-1}(b, y) = (w_y(b), y)$ . Obviously,  $\text{sgn}(qp^{-1}) = \prod \text{sgn}(w_y)$ . However, for  $y \neq x, xt(x)$ ,  $w_y = \mathcal{L}(a, H(+)) \mathcal{L}(a, H(\circ))^{-1}$  and  $\text{sgn}(w_y) = 1$ . For  $y = x, w_x = 1_H$

and again  $\text{sgn}(w_y)=1$ . Finally, for  $y=xt(x)$ ,  $w_y=f\mathcal{L}(a,H(+))\mathcal{L}(a,H(\circ))^{-1}$  and  $\text{sgn}(w_y)=\text{sgn}(f)=-1$ . We have proved that the left translations of  $G(\ast)$  are odd. In the right hand case, we can proceed similarly.

11.1.3. Lemma. Let  $m$  be odd,  $Q=Z_m(\Delta)$ ,  $x\Delta y=2x-y$ . Then  $\mathcal{L}((0,x),G(\ast))^4$  is a 3-cycle for every  $x \in Q$ .

Proof. Clearly,  $\mathcal{L}((0,x),G(\ast))$  is composed from the following cycles:  
 $((a,y) (a,2x-y))$ ,  $a \in H$ ,  $y \in Q - \{x, t(x), 2x-t(x)\}$ ;  
 $((0,x))$ ;  $((b,x) (kh(b),x) ((kh)^2(b),x))$ ,  $b=(0,1)$ ;  
 $((c,t(x)) (c,2x-t(x)))$ ,  $c=(1,0), (1,1)$ ;  
 $((0,t(x)) (b,2x-t(x)) (b,t(x)) (0,2x-t(x)))$ .

11.2. Corollary. Let  $m \geq 3$  be odd. Then there exists an idempotent quasigroup of order  $4m$  and type (4) such that  $\mathcal{L}(a,Q)^4$  is a 3-cycle for some  $a \in Q$ .

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