

## FROM STEINER TRIPLE SYSTEMS TO 3-SUN SYSTEMS

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**Abstract.** An  $n$ -sun is the graph with  $2n$  vertices consisting of an  $n$ -cycle with  $n$  pendent edges which form a 1-factor. In this paper we show that the necessary and sufficient conditions for the decomposition of complete tripartite graphs with at least two partite sets having the same size into 3-suns and give another construction to get a 3-sun system of order  $n$ , for  $n \equiv 0, 1, 4, 9 \pmod{12}$ . In the construction we metamorphose a Steiner triple system into a 3-sun system. We then embed a cyclic Steiner triple system of order  $n$  into a 3-sun system of order  $2n - 1$ , for  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A decomposition of a graph  $G$  is a set  $\mathbb{H} = \{H_1, H_2, \dots, H_t\}$  of subgraphs of  $G$  such that  $E(H_1) \cup E(H_2) \cup \dots \cup E(H_t) = E(G)$  and  $E(H_i) \cap E(H_j) = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ . For convenience, we say that  $G$  can be decomposed into  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_t$ . If  $H_i$  is isomorphic to a graph  $H$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, t$ , then we say that  $G$  has an  $H$  decomposition. A Steiner triple system of order  $n$  (more simply triple system) is a pair  $(X, T)$  where  $X$  is an  $n$ -set and  $T$  is a collection of edge disjoint triangles (or triples) which partition the edge set of  $K_n$  with the vertex set  $X$ . It is well known [3] that the spectrum for Steiner triple systems(STS) is precisely the set of all  $n \equiv 1$  or  $3 \pmod{6}$ . A 3-sun is a graph with six vertices  $a, b, c, d, e, f$  consisting of a triangle  $(a, b, c)$  and a 1-factor  $\{\{a, d\}, \{b, e\}, \{c, f\}\}$ . We will denote this 3-sun by  $(a, b, c; d, e, f)$ . A 3-sun system of order  $n$ ,  $(3SS(n))$ , is a pair  $(Y, S)$  where  $Y$  is an  $n$ -set and  $S$  is a collection of edge disjoint 3-suns which partition the edge set of  $K_n$  with the vertex set  $Y$ . In [6], Yin had shown that the spectrum for 3-sun system is precisely  $n \equiv 0, 1, 4, 9 \pmod{12}$  and if  $(Y, S)$  is a 3-sun system of order  $n$  then  $|S| = n(n - 1)/12$ .

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In this paper we give the different constructions to get 3-sun systems of order  $n$ . Since a 3-sun is a tripartite graph, in Section 2, we consider the decomposition of a complete tripartite graph  $K_{p,p,r}$  into 3-suns. We obtain that the necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a decomposition of  $K_{p,p,r}$  into 3-suns. In Section 3, we use recursive construction to construct 3-sun systems of order  $n$  when  $n \equiv 0, 4 \pmod{12}$ . For  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$ , we construct a cyclic 3-sun system of order  $n$ . For  $n \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$ , we metamorphose a Kirkman triple system(KTS) of order  $n$  into a 3-sun system of order  $n$ . Clearly the triangles of a 3-sun system cannot form a triple system. So the following problem is immediate. What is the largest cyclic Steiner triple system can be embedded in the partial triple system consisting of the triangles of a 3-sun system? In Section 4, we embed a cyclic Steiner triple system of order  $6m + 1$  into a 3-sun system of order  $12m + 1$ .

## 2. DECOMPOSE $K_{p,q,r}$ INTO 3-SUNS

Let  $p, q, r$  be positive integers. For convenience, we will let  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p\}$ ,  $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_q\}$ ,  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_r\}$  be three partite sets of  $K_{p,q,r}$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $p, q, r$  be positive integers and  $p \geq q \geq r$ . If  $K_{p,q,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition, then  $6 \mid (pq + qr + pr)$  and  $r \geq \max\{\frac{p}{3}, \frac{pq}{p+q}\}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $K_{p,q,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition, then  $6 \mid (pq + qr + pr)$  and there are  $\frac{pq+qr+pr}{6}$  3-suns. Since a 3-sun has three vertices of degree 3 and each belongs to different partite sets, we have  $(p+q)r \geq 3 \cdot \frac{pq+qr+pr}{6}$ . It implies that  $(p+q)r \geq pq$ , thus  $r \geq \frac{pq}{p+q}$ . Since  $K_{p,q,r}$  can be decomposed into at most  $qr$  3-suns, we have  $\frac{pq+qr+pr}{6} \leq qr$ . Combining the inequality  $(p+q)r \geq pq$ , we obtain that  $r \geq \frac{p}{3}$ . Therefore,  $r \geq \max\{\frac{p}{3}, \frac{pq}{p+q}\}$ . ■

If  $p = q = r$ , then  $K_{p,q,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition provided that  $p$  is even. For example,  $K_{2,2,2}$  can be decomposed into two 3-suns:  $(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, c_2, a_2)$  and  $(a_2, b_2, c_2; b_1, c_1, a_1)$ . Since  $K_{n,n,n}$  can be decomposed into  $n^2$  triangles from a Latin square of order  $n$ , we obtain that  $K_{p,p,p}$  has a 3-sun decomposition if and only if  $p$  is even.

Next we will consider the decomposition of  $K_{p,p,r}$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $p \geq 2$  and  $r \geq 2$  be integers. If  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition, then  $\frac{p}{2} \leq r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$  and (1)  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , (2)  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ ,  $r \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , or (3)  $p \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ ,  $r \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .*

*Proof.* By counting the number of edges of  $K_{p,p,r}$ , if  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition, then  $6 \mid p(p+2r)$ . It follows that  $p$  should be even and  $3 \mid p$  or  $3 \mid p+2r$ . This implies either  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ ,  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$  and  $r \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  or

$p \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$  and  $r \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . If  $p \geq r$ , by Lemma 2.1,  $r \geq \max\{\frac{p}{3}, \frac{p^2}{p+p}\}$ , we have  $r \geq \frac{p}{2}$ . If  $r \geq p$ , then  $K_{r,p,p}$  can be decomposed into at most  $p^2$  3-suns. We have  $p^2 \geq \frac{p^2+2pr}{6}$ , thus  $r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$ . Combining above two results, we obtain  $\frac{p}{2} \leq r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$ . ■

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $p$  be even. If  $K_{p,p,s}$  and  $K_{p,p,t}$  have 3-sun decompositions, then  $K_{np,np,ms+(n-m)t}$  has a 3-sun decomposition for  $0 \leq m \leq n$ .*

*Proof.* The first two partite sets of  $K_{np,np,ms+(n-m)t}$  can be partitioned into  $n$  groups each group containing  $p$  elements and the third partite set can be partitioned into  $n$  groups,  $m$  of them containing  $s$  elements, the others containing  $t$  elements. Since  $K_{n,n,n}$  can be decomposed into  $n^2$  triangles from a Latin square of order  $n$ ,  $K_{np,np,ms+(n-m)t}$  can be decomposed into  $n^2$  triangles and each triangle corresponds to a  $K_{p,p,t}$  or a  $K_{p,p,s}$ . Thus  $K_{np,np,ms+(n-m)t}$  can be decomposed into  $nm$  copies of  $K_{p,p,s}$  and  $n(n-m)$  copies of  $K_{p,p,t}$ . Since  $K_{p,p,s}$  and  $K_{p,p,t}$  have a 3-sun decomposition respectively,  $K_{np,np,ms+(n-m)t}$  has a 3-sun decomposition. ■

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $p$  and  $r$  be positive integers. If  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{6}, r \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , or  $p \equiv 4 \pmod{6}, r \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , and  $\frac{p}{2} \leq r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$ , then  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition.*

*Proof.*

(1)  $p \leq r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$ . By Lemma 2.2, if  $K_{2,2,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition, then  $r = 2$  or  $5$ .  $K_{2,2,2}$  has already been done. We can decompose  $K_{2,2,5}$  into four 3-suns:  $(a_1, b_1, c_1; c_4, c_5, b_2)$ ,  $(a_1, b_2, c_2; c_5, c_3, a_2)$ ,  $(a_2, b_1, c_3; c_5, c_2, a_1)$ ,  $(a_2, b_2, c_4; c_1, c_5, b_1)$ . By using the decomposition of  $K_{2,2,2}$  and  $K_{2,2,5}$ , we can get the following construction. Let  $k$  be a positive integer. If  $p = 6k + 2 = (3k + 1) \cdot 2$  and  $r = 3t + 2 \leq 15k + 5$ , let  $m = 5k - t + 1$ , then  $r = m \cdot 2 + (3k + 1 - m) \cdot 5$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $K_{6k+2,6k+2,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition. If  $p = 6k + 4 = (3k + 2) \cdot 2$  and  $r = 3t + 1 \leq 15k + 10$ , let  $m = 5k - t + 3$ , then  $r = m \cdot 2 + (3k + 2 - m) \cdot 5$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $K_{6k+4,6k+4,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition.

(2)  $\frac{p}{2} \leq r < p$ . We can decompose  $K_{p,p,r}$  into 3-suns as follows.

Let  $s = \lfloor \frac{r}{3} \rfloor$ . Then  $\lfloor \frac{p}{6} \rfloor \leq s \leq \lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor$ . Let  $q = \lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor - s$ .

- (i) For  $m = 1, 2, \dots, q, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$ ,  
 $(a_{2m-1+i}, b_{1+i}, c_{m+i}; b_{3m-1+i}, a_{2m+i}, a_{\frac{p}{2}+i})$  and  
 $(a_{2q+2m-1+i}, b_{1+i}, c_{q+m+i}; b_{3q+3m-1+i}, a_{2q+2m+i}, b_{q+2m+i})$ .  
 Notice that the indices of  $a$  and  $b$  are restricted to  $Z_p = \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$   
 and the indices of  $c$  are restricted to  $Z_{\frac{p}{2}} = \{1, 2, \dots, \frac{p}{2}\}$
- (ii) For  $m = 1, 2, \dots, r - \frac{p}{2}, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \frac{p}{2} - 1$ ,  
 $(a_{4q+2m-1+j}, b_{1+j}, c_{\frac{p}{2}+m}; c_{2q+m+j}, a_{4q+2m+j}, b_{\frac{p}{2}+1+j})$  and

$$(a_{4q+2m-1+j'}, b_{1+j'}, c_{2q+m+j'}; c_{\frac{p}{2}+m}, a_{4q+2m+j'}, b_{\frac{p}{2}+1+j'}), j' = \frac{p}{2}, \frac{p}{2} + 1, \dots, p - 1.$$

Notice that the indices of  $a$  and  $b$  are restricted to  $Z_p$  and the values of  $2q + m + j$  and  $2q + m + j'$  are restricted to  $Z_{\frac{p}{2}}$ . ■

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $p$  and  $r$  be positive integers. If  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$  and  $p/2 \leq r \leq 5p/2$ , then  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition.*

*Proof.*

- (1) If  $p = 6$ , then  $3 \leq r \leq 15$ . Combining  $K_{2,2,2}$  and  $K_{2,2,5}$ , by Lemma 2.3, we can get that  $K_{6,6,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition for  $r = 6, 9, 12, 15$ . For the rest of  $r$ , the decomposition of  $K_{6,6,r}$  can be found in Appendix.
- (2) Let  $k \geq 2$  be a positive integer. If  $p = 6k$ , then  $3k \leq r \leq 15k$ . Let  $i = \lfloor \frac{r}{k} \rfloor$  and  $m = r - ik \geq 0$ , then  $r$  can be written as  $m(i + 1) + (k - m)i$ . By (1) and Lemma 2.3, we obtain that  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition. ■

By Lemma 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5, we obtain

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $p$  and  $r$  be positive integers.  $K_{p,p,r}$  has a 3-sun decomposition if and only if  $\frac{p}{2} \leq r \leq \frac{5p}{2}$  and (1)  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , (2)  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ ,  $r \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , or (3)  $p \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ ,  $r \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .*

We close this section by decomposing  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  into cyclic 3-suns. Let  $A, B$ , and  $C$  be three partite sets of  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$ .  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns if there is an automorphism which is a permutation with three orbits and each orbits has length  $2n$ , see [4]. Let  $t = (a_i, b_j, c_k; b_u, c_v, a_w)$  be a 3-sun in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$ , where  $a_i, a_w \in A$ ,  $b_j, b_u \in B$ , and  $c_k, c_v \in C$ . We define  $d_{AB}(t) = \{0_{j-i}, 0_{u-i}\}$ ,  $d_{BC}(t) = \{1_{k-j}, 1_{v-j}\}$ ,  $d_{CA}(t) = \{2_{i-k}, 2_{w-k}\}$ , the indices are taken modulo  $2n$ . Let  $d(t) = d_{AB}(t) \cup d_{BC}(t) \cup d_{CA}(t)$ . We call  $d(t)$  is the difference set of  $t = (a_i, b_j, c_k; b_u, c_v, a_w)$ . Let  $D(H) = \{d(t) | t \in H\}$ , where  $H$  is a collection of 3-suns in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$ . If  $T$  contains  $n$  3-suns in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  and  $D(T) = \{0_i, 1_i, 2_i | i = 0, 1, \dots, 2n - 1\}$ , then we call that  $T$  is a set of base 3-suns in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$ . That is,  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns  $\bigcup_{x=0}^{2n-1} (T + x) = \{(a_{i+x}, b_{j+x}, c_{k+x}; b_{u+x}, c_{v+x}, a_{w+x}) | (a_i, b_j, c_k; b_u, c_v, a_w) \in T, x = 0, 1, \dots, 2n - 1\}$ . The indices of  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are taken modulo  $2n$ . For example, if  $T = \{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, c_2, a_2)\}$  and  $D(T) = \{0_0, 0_1, 1_0, 1_1, 2_0, 2_1\}$ , then  $K_{2,2,2}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns. Therefore, if we can find the base 3-suns in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$ , then  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns.

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $n$  be a positive integer.  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns.*

*Proof.* Construct the base 3-suns in  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  as follows:  
The following indices of  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are restricted to the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$ .

- (1)  $n$  is odd. Let  $m = \frac{n-1}{2}$ ,
- (i)  $k = 0, 1, \dots, m, (a_1, b_{4k+1}, c_{n+2k+1}; b_{4k+2}, c_1, a_{n-2k+1}) \in T.$
  - (ii)  $k = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1, (a_1, b_{4k+3}, c_{2k+2}; b_{4k+4}, c_1, a_{2n-2k}) \in T.$

We have  $D(T) = \{0_{4k}, 0_{4k+1}, 1_{n-2k}, 1_{2n-4k}, 2_{n-2k}, 2_{2n-4k} | k = 0, 1, \dots, m\} \cup \{0_{4k+2}, 0_{4k+3}, 1_{2n-2k-1}, 1_{2n-4k-2}, 2_{2n-2k-1}, 2_{2n-4k-2} | k = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1\} = \{0_i, 1_i, 2_i | i = 0, 1, \dots, 2n - 1\}.$

- (2)  $n$  is even. Let  $m = \frac{n}{2}$ ,
- (i)  $(a_1, b_1, c_{n+1}; b_2, c_1, a_{n+1}) \in T.$
  - (ii)  $k = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1, (a_1, b_{4k+1}, c_{n+2k+1}; b_{4k+2}, c_{n+6k+1}, a_{4k+1}) \in T.$
  - (iii)  $k = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1, (a_1, b_{4k+3}, c_{2k+2}; b_{4k+4}, c_{6k+4}, a_{4k+3}) \in T.$

We have  $D(T) = \{0_0, 0_1, 1_n, 1_0, 2_n, 2_0\} \cup \{0_{4k}, 0_{4k+1}, 1_{n-2k}, 1_{n+2k}, 2_{n-2k}, 2_{n+2k} | k = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1\} \cup \{0_{4k+2}, 0_{4k+3}, 1_{2n-2k-1}, 1_{2k+1}, 2_{2n-2k-1}, 2_{2k+1} | k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m - 1\} = \{0_i, 1_i, 2_i | i = 0, 1, \dots, 2n - 1\}.$

Therefore,  $K_{2n,2n,2n}$  can be decomposed into cyclic 3-suns. ■

### 3. 3-SUN SYSTEM OF ORDER $n$

In this section, we will construct the 3-sun system of order  $n$ ,  $3SS(n)$ , i.e., decomposing  $K_n$  into 3-suns. The spectrum of  $3SS(n)$  is precisely  $n \equiv 0, 1, 4, 9 \pmod{12}$ . First we will see the construction of  $3SS(n)$  for  $n \equiv 0, 4 \pmod{12}$ , by using the decomposition of complete tripartite graphs into 3-suns. Let the vertex set of  $K_n$  be  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

**Example 3.1.**

- (a)  $3SS(12) = \{(1, 3, 4; 9, 11, 12), (1, 5, 11; 2, 8, 12), (1, 7, 10; 8, 12, 3), (2, 6, 12; 4, 5, 10), (2, 8, 11; 5, 9, 4), (3, 5, 12; 6, 10, 1), (3, 7, 9; 2, 5, 12), (4, 6, 9; 7, 11, 2), (4, 8, 10; 5, 12, 2), (6, 7, 8; 1, 2, 3), (9, 10, 11; 5, 6, 7)\}.$
- (b)  $3SS(24) = \{(1, 2, 4; 8, 9, 23), (1, 3, 7; 16, 24, 8), (1, 5, 6; 22, 8, 13), (1, 9, 21; 10, 17, 5), (1, 11, 18; 12, 20, 3), (1, 13, 23; 14, 19, 5), (2, 3, 5; 8, 10, 18), (2, 6, 7; 21, 8, 14), (2, 10, 22; 11, 18, 6), (2, 12, 19; 13, 21, 4), (2, 14, 24; 15, 20, 6), (3, 4, 6; 8, 11, 17), (3, 11, 23; 12, 19, 7), (3, 15, 17; 16, 21, 7), (3, 13, 20; 14, 22, 5), (4, 5, 7; 8, 12, 20), (4, 12, 24; 13, 20, 8), (4, 14, 21; 15, 23, 6), (4, 16, 18; 9, 22, 8), (5, 9, 19; 10, 23, 1), (5, 13, 17; 14, 21, 1), (5, 15, 22; 16, 24, 7), (6, 10, 20; 11, 24, 2), (6, 14, 18; 15, 22, 2), (6, 16, 23; 9, 17, 8), (7, 11, 21; 12, 17, 3), (7, 15, 19; 16, 23, 3), (7, 9, 24; 10, 18, 1), (8, 12, 22; 13, 18, 4), (8, 16, 20; 9, 24, 4), (8, 14, 19; 15, 17, 6), (8, 10, 17; 11, 19, 2), (9, 10, 12; 14, 21, 6), (9, 11, 16; 20, 5, 14), (9, 13, 15; 3, 14, 18), (10, 11, 13; 14, 22, 7), (10, 15, 16; 4, 14, 19), (11, 12, 15; 14, 23, 1), (12, 13, 16; 14, 24, 2), (17, 18, 21; 19, 13, 8), (17, 22, 23; 4, 19, 10), (17, 20, 24; 12, 1, 19), (18, 20, 22; 19, 15, 3), (18, 23, 24; 7, 19, 11), (20, 21, 23; 19, 16, 2), (21, 22, 24; 19, 9, 5)\}.$

**Lemma 3.2.** *If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$ , then there exists a 3-sun system of order  $n$ .*

*Proof.* By Example 3.1, there are 3-sun systems of order 12 and 24 respectively. Let  $n = 12m$  where  $m \geq 3$ . Let  $m = 3s + p$  where  $s \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq p \leq 2$ .  $K_n$  can be viewed as the union of two  $K_{12s}$ 's, one  $K_{12s+12p}$  and one  $K_{12s,12s,12s+12p}$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $K_{12s,12s,12t}$  can be decomposed into 3-suns if  $\frac{s}{2} \leq t \leq \frac{5s}{2}$ . By Example 3.1 and the above construction,  $K_n$  can be recursively decomposed into 3-suns as  $n > 24$ , except  $n = 60$ . Since  $K_{60}$  can be viewed as the union of one  $K_{12}$ , two  $K_{24}$ 's and one  $K_{24,24,12}$ ,  $K_{60}$  has a 3-sun system. The proof is completed. ■

**Example 3.3.**

- (a)  $3SS(16) = \{(1, 2, 4; 13, 8, 11), (1, 5, 9; 6, 12, 13),$   
 $(1, 14, 15; 8, 3, 5), (1, 3, 16; 7, 10, 5), (2, 3, 5; 14, 9, 13), (2, 6, 10; 7, 13, 14),$   
 $(2, 15, 16; 9, 4, 6), (3, 4, 6; 15, 10, 14), (3, 7, 11; 8, 14, 15), (4, 5, 7; 16, 11, 15),$   
 $(4, 8, 12; 9, 15, 16), (5, 6, 8; 10, 12, 16), (6, 7, 9; 11, 13, 16), (7, 8, 10; 12, 14, 1),$   
 $(8, 9, 11; 13, 15, 2), (9, 10, 12; 14, 16, 3), (10, 11, 13; 15, 1, 4), (11, 12, 14; 16, 2, 5),$   
 $(12, 13, 15; 1, 3, 6), (13, 14, 16; 2, 4, 7)\}.$
- (b)  $3SS(28) = \{(1, 2, 4; 22, 10, 14), (1, 3, 28; 9, 13, 6), (1, 6, 25; 13, 19, 8),$   
 $(1, 5, 10; 12, 17, 23), (1, 8, 15; 7, 19, 22), (1, 20, 24; 14, 3, 8), (1, 26, 27; 11, 4, 7),$   
 $(2, 3, 5; 23, 11, 15), (2, 6, 11; 13, 18, 24), (2, 7, 26; 14, 20, 9), (2, 9, 16; 8, 20, 23),$   
 $(2, 21, 25; 15, 4, 9), (2, 27, 28; 12, 5, 8), (3, 4, 6; 24, 12, 16), (3, 7, 12; 14, 19, 25),$   
 $(3, 8, 27; 15, 21, 10), (3, 10, 17; 9, 21, 24), (3, 22, 26; 16, 5, 10), (4, 5, 7; 25, 13, 17),$   
 $(4, 8, 13; 15, 20, 26), (4, 11, 18; 10, 22, 25), (4, 23, 27; 17, 6, 11), (4, 9, 28; 16, 22, 11),$   
 $(5, 6, 8; 26, 14, 18), (5, 9, 14; 16, 21, 27), (5, 12, 19; 11, 23, 26), (5, 24, 28; 18, 7, 12),$   
 $(6, 7, 9; 27, 15, 19), (6, 10, 15; 17, 22, 28), (6, 13, 20; 12, 24, 27), (7, 8, 10; 28, 16, 20),$   
 $(7, 11, 16; 18, 23, 1), (7, 14, 21; 13, 25, 28), (8, 9, 11; 14, 17, 21), (8, 12, 17; 22, 24, 2),$   
 $(9, 10, 12; 15, 18, 22), (9, 13, 18; 23, 25, 3), (10, 11, 13; 16, 19, 23),$   
 $(10, 14, 19; 24, 26, 4), (11, 12, 14; 17, 20, 24), (11, 15, 20; 25, 27, 5),$   
 $(12, 13, 15; 18, 21, 25), (12, 16, 21; 26, 28, 6), (13, 14, 16; 19, 22, 26),$   
 $(13, 17, 22; 27, 1, 7), (14, 15, 17; 20, 23, 27), (14, 18, 23; 28, 2, 8),$   
 $(15, 16, 18; 21, 24, 28), (15, 19, 24; 26, 3, 9), (16, 17, 19; 22, 25, 1),$   
 $(16, 20, 25; 27, 4, 10), (17, 18, 20; 23, 26, 2), (17, 21, 26; 28, 5, 11),$   
 $(18, 19, 21; 24, 27, 3), (18, 22, 27; 1, 6, 12), (19, 20, 22; 25, 28, 4),$   
 $(19, 23, 28; 2, 7, 13), (20, 21, 23; 26, 1, 5), (21, 22, 24; 27, 2, 6),$   
 $(22, 23, 25; 28, 3, 7), (23, 24, 26; 1, 4, 8), (24, 25, 27; 2, 5, 9), (25, 26, 28; 3, 6, 10)\}.$

**Lemma 3.4.**  $3SS(n)$  exists if  $n = 40, 52, 64$ .

*Proof.*  $K_{40}$  can be viewed as the union of two  $K_{12}$ 's, one  $K_{16}$  and one  $K_{12,12,16}$ .  $K_{52}$  can be viewed as the union of two  $K_{12}$ 's, one  $K_{28}$  and one  $K_{12,12,28}$ .  $K_{64}$  can be viewed as the union of one  $K_{16}$ , two  $K_{24}$ 's and one  $K_{24,24,16}$ . According to Example 3.1 and 3.3,  $K_{12}$ ,  $K_{16}$ ,  $K_{24}$ , and  $K_{28}$  can be decomposed into 3-suns. By Lemma 2.5,  $K_{12,12,16}$ ,  $K_{12,12,28}$ , and  $K_{24,24,16}$  can be decomposed into 3-suns. Hence,  $K_n$  can be decomposed into 3-suns for  $n = 40, 52, 64$ . ■

**Lemma 3.5.** *If  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$ , then there exists a 3-sun system of order  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n = 12m + 4$ . By Example 3.3 and Lemma 3.4, we have  $3SS(16)$ ,  $3SS(28)$ ,  $3SS(40)$ ,  $3SS(52)$ , and  $3SS(64)$ . Let  $m = 3s + p$  where  $s \geq 2$  and  $0 \leq p \leq 2$ .  $K_{36s+12p+4}$  can be viewed as the union of two  $K_{12s}$ 's, one  $K_{12(s+p)+4}$  and one  $K_{12s,12s,12(s+p)+4}$ . By Lemma 3.2 and recursive construction,  $K_{12s}$  and  $K_{12(s+p)+4}$  can be decomposed into 3-suns. By Lemma 2.5,  $K_{12s,12s,12(s+p)+4}$  can be decomposed into 3-suns. Hence, the proof is completed. ■

Next, we will construct cyclic 3-sun systems of order  $n$  for  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$ . A 3-sun system  $3SS(n)$  on the elements of  $Z_n = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is said to be *cyclic* if whenever  $(a, b, c; x, y, z)$  is a 3-sun, so also is  $(a+1, b+1, c+1; x+1, y+1, z+1)$ .

**Example 3.6.**

- (a) The 3-suns  $(i, i + 1, i + 3; i + 4, i + 6, i + 9)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 13$ , form a cyclic  $3SS(13)$ .
- (b) The 3-suns  $(i, i + 1, i + 5; i + 9, i + 12, i + 17)$ ,  $(i, i + 2, i + 8; i + 13, i + 16, i + 23)$ ,  $(i, i + 3, i + 10; i + 16, i + 20, i + 28)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 37$ , form a cyclic  $3SS(37)$ .

By [1,5], suppose that  $\{1, 2, \dots, 3m\}$  can be partitioned into  $m$  triples  $\{a, b, c\}$  such that  $a + b = c$  or  $a + b + c \equiv 0 \pmod{6m + 1}$ . Then the triples  $\{0, a, a + b\}$  form a  $(6m + 1, 3, 1)$  difference system and so lead to the construction of cyclic  $STS(6m + 1)$ . A *Skolem triple system* of order  $m$  is a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 3m\}$  into  $m$  triples  $\{i, a_i, i + a_i\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . An *O'Keefe triple system* of order  $m$  is a partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 3m - 1, 3m + 1\}$  into  $m$  triples  $\{i, a_i, i + a_i\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . It is well-known that if  $m \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  then a Skolem triple system of order  $m$  exists and if  $m \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$  then an O'Keefe triple system of order  $m$  exists. Let  $t = (a, b, c; d, e, f)$  be a 3-sun in  $K_n$ . Since  $t$  contains a triangle  $(a, b, c)$  and one 1-factor  $\{\{a, d\}, \{b, e\}, \{c, f\}\}$ , we obtain two difference triples  $\{b - a, c - b, a - c\}$  and  $\{d - a, e - b, f - c\}$  where the values are taken modulo  $n$ . Next, we will metamorphose a cyclic  $STS(12m + 1)$  into a cyclic  $3SS(12m + 1)$ .

**Lemma 3.7.** *If  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$ , then there exists a cyclic  $3SS(n)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n = 12k + 1$ .

- (1)  $k$  is even.
  - If  $k = 2$ , then the 3-suns in a cyclic  $3SS(25)$  are constructed as follows.
    - For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ ,
    - $(i, i + 1, i + 12; i + 2, i + 8, i + 21)$  and  $(i, i + 3, i + 8; i + 4, i + 9, i + 18)$ .
    - It is easy to check that the union of four difference triples is the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, 12\}$ .
  - If  $k \geq 4$ , then the 3-suns are constructed as follows.
    - For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,
    - $(i, i + 1, i + 6k; i + k, i + 4k, i + 11k - 1)$ ,

$(i, i + 2k - 1, i - 1 + \frac{9k}{2}; i + 2k, i + 5k - 1, i - 1 + \frac{19k}{2}),$   
 and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{k}{2} - 1,$   
 $(i, i + 2j, i + 3k + j; i + 2j + 1, i + 5k + j - 1, i + 8k + 2j),$   
 $(i, i + k + 2j - 1, i + \frac{7k}{2} + j - 1; i + k + 2j, i + \frac{11k}{2} + j - 2, i + 9k + 2j - 2).$   
 Since from each 3-sun we can get two difference triples, these difference triples form a *Skolem triple system* of order  $2k$  when  $k$  is even and  $k \geq 2$ , see[1]. Therefore, we have a cyclic  $3SS(12k + 1)$ ,  $k$  is even.

(2)  $k$  is odd.

In Example 3.6, we have a cyclic  $3SS(13)$  and a cyclic  $3SS(37)$ . We consider when  $k \geq 5$ , the 3-suns are constructed as follows.

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$

$(i, i + 2j, i + 3k + j + 1; i + 2j + 1, i + 5k + j - 1, i + 8k + 2j + 1),$  where  
 $j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{k-1}{2}.$

$(i, i + k + 2j - 1, i + \frac{7k+1}{2} + j; i + k + 2j + 2, i + \frac{11k-3}{2} + j, i + 9k + 2j + 2),$   
 where  $j = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{k-5}{2}.$

$(i, i + 2k - 1, i + 5k; i + 2k - 4, i + 4k + 2, i + 9k - 1),$

$(i, i + k + 2, i + 6k + 1; i + 2k - 2, i + 3k + 4, i + 10k + 1),$  and

$(i, i + 1, i + \frac{11k+3}{2}; i + 2k, i + 2k + 2, i + \frac{19k+5}{2})$

Since from each 3-sun we can get two difference triples, these difference triples form an *O'Keefe triple system* of order  $2k$  when  $k$  is odd and  $k \geq 5$ , see[1]. Therefore, we have a cyclic  $3SS(12k + 1)$ ,  $k$  is odd. ■

Next we will metamorphose a  $KTS(12k + 9)$  into a  $3SS(12k + 9)$ . A *parallel class* in a Steiner triple system  $(S, T)$  is a set of triples in  $T$  that partitions  $S$ . If the triples in  $T$  can be partitioned into parallel classes, then we say  $STS(v)$  is a *Kirkman triple system of order  $v$* , denoted by  $KTS(v)$ . It is well-known [2] that there exists a  $KTS(v)$  if and only if  $v \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ .

**Lemma 3.8.** *If  $n \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$ , then there is a 3-sun system of order  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n = 12k + 9$  where  $k \geq 0$ . Then there exists a  $KTS(12k + 9)$  with  $6k + 4$  parallel classes. Let  $(S, T)$  be a  $KTS(12k + 9)$ .  $\pi$  and  $\pi'$  are any two distinct parallel classes in  $T$ . Consider  $\pi \cup \pi'$ . If  $(x, y, z) \in \pi$  and  $(x, a, b) \in \pi'$ , then the edges  $\{x, y\}$ ,  $\{y, z\}$ , and  $\{x, z\}$  can not be contained in any triple in  $\pi'$ . That means  $y, z, a,$  and  $b$  are distinct. Using this property, we give a direction to each edge, such that each triple  $(x, a, b)$  in  $\pi'$  forms a directed cycle  $\langle x, a, b \rangle$  with the edge set  $\{(x, a), (a, b), (b, x)\}$ . Similarly, we have  $\langle y, c, d \rangle$  and  $\langle z, e, f \rangle$  in  $\pi'$ . Any triangle in  $\pi$  with its out-edge from  $\pi'$  forms a 3-sun. Thus we can get a 3-sun  $(x, y, z; a, c, e)$  in  $\pi \cup \pi'$ . Therefore, the edge-set of the union of any two distinct parallel classes of  $KTS(12k + 9)$  can be decomposed into  $4k + 3$  3-suns. Hence, we obtain a 3-sun system of order  $n$ . ■



**Example 3.9.** There is a  $3SS(9)$  constructed from a  $KTS(9)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(Z_9, T)$  be a  $KTS(9)$  with 4 parallel classes  $\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3,$  and  $\pi_4$ , where  $\pi_1 = \{(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6), (7, 8, 9)\}$ ,  $\pi_2 = \{(1, 4, 7), (2, 5, 8), (3, 6, 9)\}$ ,  $\pi_3 = \{(1, 5, 9), (2, 6, 7), (3, 4, 8)\}$ , and  $\pi_4 = \{(1, 6, 8), (2, 4, 9), (3, 5, 7)\}$ . We give a direction to each edge in  $\pi_2$  and  $\pi_4$  as follows:  $\pi'_2 = \{\langle 1, 4, 7 \rangle, \langle 2, 5, 8 \rangle, \langle 3, 6, 9 \rangle\}$ ,  $\pi'_4 = \{\langle 1, 6, 8 \rangle, \langle 2, 4, 9 \rangle, \langle 3, 5, 7 \rangle\}$ . Then the edge-set of  $\pi_1 \cup \pi'_2$  can be decomposed into three 3-suns,  $(1, 2, 3; 4, 5, 6)$ ,  $(4, 5, 6; 7, 8, 9)$ , and  $(7, 8, 9; 1, 2, 3)$ .  $\pi_3 \cup \pi'_4$  can be decomposed into three 3-suns,  $(1, 5, 9; 6, 7, 2)$ ,  $(2, 6, 7; 4, 8, 3)$ , and  $(3, 4, 8; 5, 9, 1)$ . ■

By Lemma 3.2, 3.5, 3.7, and 3.8, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.10.** *There exists a 3-sun system of order  $n$ , if and only if  $n \equiv 0, 1, 4, 9 \pmod{12}$ .*

#### 4. EMBEDDING A CYCLIC STEINER TRIPLE SYSTEM IN A 3-SUN SYSTEM

Let  $(Y, S)$  be a 3-sun system of order  $n$  and  $P$  be the collection of triangles in  $S$ . Then  $(Y, P)$  is a partial triple system of order  $n$ . We say that the Steiner triple system  $(X, T)$  is *embedded* in a 3-sun system  $(Y, S)$  provided  $X \subseteq Y$  and  $T \subseteq P$ . Subsequently, we give a construction for a 3-sun system of order  $12m + 1$  embedding a cyclic Steiner triple system of order  $6m + 1$ .

**Theorem 4.11.** *Let  $m$  be a positive integer. Let  $(X, T)$  be a cyclic Steiner triple system of order  $6m + 1$ . Then there is a 3-sun system  $(Y, S)$  of order  $12m + 1$ , such that  $(X, T)$  is embedded in  $(Y, S)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $X = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{6m}, v_{6m+1}\}$ ,  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{6m}\}$  and  $X \cap U = \emptyset$ . Set  $Y = X \cup U$ . Let  $(X, T)$  be a cyclic  $STS(6m + 1)$ . Suppose  $E_1, E_2, \dots,$  and  $E_m$  are base triples in  $T$ . For convenience, we give an order for the elements in each base triple such that  $E_i = \langle v_{a_i^1}, v_{a_i^2}, v_{a_i^3} \rangle$ , for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , and  $a_i^1 < a_i^2 < a_i^3$ .

Define a collection  $S$  of 3-suns over  $Y$  as follows:

- (1) For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 6m$ .

Define  $t_{i,j}^k := a_i^k + j \in Z_{6m+1} = \{1, 2, \dots, 6m + 1\}$ , for all  $k = 1, 2, 3$ .

$B_{i,j} := (v_{t_{i,j}^1}, v_{t_{i,j}^2}, v_{t_{i,j}^3}; u_{2m+3i+t_{i,j}^1-3}, u_{2m+3i+t_{i,j}^2-2}, u_{2m+3i+t_{i,j}^3-1})$  where the indices of  $u$  are restricted to  $Z_{6m} = \{1, 2, \dots, 6m - 1, 6m\}$ .

Therefore, there are  $m(6m + 1)$  3-suns.

- (2) Define  $\alpha_k = v_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, 6m$ .

For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$  and  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 6m - 1$ ,

$B'_{i,j} := (u_{1+j}, u_{2m-2(i-1)+j}, \alpha_{2-i+j}; u_{2m+1-2(i-1)+j}, u_{4m+1-(i-1)+j}, u_{5m+1+j})$

And  $B'_{m,j} := (u_{1+j}, u_{2+j}, \alpha_{5m+2+j}; u_{3+j}, \beta_j, u_{5m+1+j})$  where

$$\beta_j := \begin{cases} v_{6m+1} & \text{if } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 2m - 2, 5m - 1, 5m, \dots, 6m - 1. \\ u_{3m+2+j} & \text{if } j = 2m - 1, 2m, \dots, 5m - 3, 5m - 2. \end{cases}$$

The indices of  $\alpha$  and  $u$  are restricted to  $Z_{6m} = \{1, 2, \dots, 6m\}$ . Hence, there are  $6m^2$  3-suns.

From (1), the base triples in  $T$  is the triangles of  $B_{i,0}$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Therefore,  $(X, T)$  is embedded in  $(Y, S)$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Example 4.12.** Let  $X = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_7\}$ ,  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_6\}$  and  $Y = X \cup U$ . Let  $(X, T)$  be a cyclic  $STS(7)$ . If  $\{v_1, v_2, v_4\}$  is a base triple in  $T$ . Let  $E_i = \langle v_{a_1^i}, v_{a_2^i}, v_{a_3^i} \rangle = \langle v_1, v_2, v_4 \rangle$ , and  $S = \{B_{1,j}, B'_{1,j'} | j = 0, 1, \dots, 6, j' = 0, 1, \dots, 5\}$ . By the construction in Theorem 4.1, we can get:

$B_{1,0} = (v_1, v_2, v_4; u_3, u_5, u_2)$ ,  $B_{1,1} = (v_2, v_3, v_5; u_4, u_6, u_2)$ ,  $B_{1,2} = (v_3, v_4, v_6; u_5, u_1, u_4)$ ,  
 $B_{1,3} = (v_4, v_5, v_7; u_6, u_2, u_5)$ ,  $B_{1,4} = (v_5, v_6, v_1; u_1, u_3, u_5)$ ,  $B_{1,5} = (v_6, v_7, v_2; u_2, u_4, u_6)$ ,  
 $B_{1,6} = (v_7, v_1, v_3; u_3, u_4, u_1)$ ,  $B'_{1,0} = (u_1, u_2, v_1; u_3, v_7, u_6)$ ,  $B'_{1,1} = (u_2, u_3, v_2; u_4, u_6, u_1)$ ,  
 $B'_{1,2} = (u_3, u_4, v_3; u_5, u_1, u_2)$ ,  $B'_{1,3} = (u_4, u_5, v_4; u_6, u_2, u_3)$ ,  $B'_{1,4} = (u_5, u_6, v_5; u_1, v_7, u_4)$ ,  
 $B'_{1,5} = (u_6, u_1, v_6; u_2, v_7, u_5)$ . Then  $(Y, S)$  is a  $3SS(13)$  and  $(X, T)$  is a cyclic  $STS(7)$  embedded in a  $3SS(13)$ .

## 5. CONCLUSION AND OPEN QUESTION

There are further questions to be asked.

- (1) If  $p > q > r \geq 2$ , what is the necessary and sufficient condition for the decomposition of  $K_{p,q,r}$  into 3-suns ?
- (2) Can one embed any Steiner triple system into a 3-sun system?

### APPENDIX

A.  $K_{6,6,3}$  can be decomposed into 12 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, a_2, b_3), (a_2, b_2, c_2; b_3, a_3, b_1), (a_3, b_3, c_3; b_1, a_1, b_2),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_1; b_5, a_5, a_2), (a_5, b_5, c_2; b_6, a_6, a_3), (a_6, b_6, c_3; b_4, a_4, a_1),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_3; b_2, a_5, b_4), (a_5, b_2, c_1; b_3, a_6, b_5), (a_6, b_3, c_2; b_1, a_4, b_6),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_2; b_5, a_2, a_4), (a_2, b_5, c_3; b_6, a_3, a_5), (a_3, b_6, c_1; b_4, a_1, a_6)\}.$

B.  $K_{6,6,4}$  can be decomposed into 14 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, c_4, a_3), (a_2, b_2, c_2; b_3, c_3, a_3), (a_3, b_3, c_3; b_1, a_4, b_4),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_1; c_4, a_6, b_5), (a_6, b_5, c_2; c_4, a_5, b_6), (a_6, b_6, c_3; b_2, a_5, b_1),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_2; c_3, a_5, b_3), (a_5, b_2, c_4; b_4, a_4, b_3), (a_6, b_3, c_1; b_1, a_5, b_2),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_2; b_3, a_3, a_5), (a_2, b_5, c_3; b_1, a_3, a_5), (a_3, b_6, c_4; b_2, a_1, a_2),$   
 $(a_1, b_5, c_4; c_3, a_4, b_4), (a_2, b_6, c_1; b_4, a_4, a_5)\}.$

C.  $K_{6,6,5}$  can be decomposed into 16 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, a_2, b_5), (a_2, b_2, c_2; b_3, a_3, b_6), (a_3, b_3, c_3; c_2, a_4, a_1),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; b_5, a_1, a_5), (a_2, b_5, c_4; b_6, a_6, b_1), (a_3, b_6, c_4; c_1, a_5, b_2),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_2; c_3, a_3, b_5), (a_6, b_1, c_3; c_2, a_5, b_6), (a_4, b_2, c_5; c_1, c_3, a_2),$

$(a_6, b_2, c_1; c_4, a_5, b_4), (a_5, b_3, c_1; c_2, a_6, b_6), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_3, a_3, b_3),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_5; b_6, a_5, b_1), (a_2, b_4, c_3; c_1, a_3, b_5), (a_1, b_3, c_2; b_5, c_4, b_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_6, c_5; c_4, a_4, a_3)\}$ .

D.  $K_{6,6,7}$  can be decomposed into 20 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; c_7, a_4, a_5), (a_2, b_2, c_2; c_1, a_1, a_4), (a_3, b_3, c_3; b_4, a_2, a_5),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; b_6, a_1, b_5), (a_5, b_5, c_5; b_2, a_2, a_1), (a_6, b_6, c_6; c_3, c_1, a_2),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; c_5, a_5, b_6), (a_3, b_2, c_4; b_6, c_7, b_1), (a_4, b_3, c_5; c_3, c_6, b_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; b_6, a_2, a_1), (a_6, b_5, c_7; c_5, a_4, b_4), (a_3, b_1, c_5; c_2, c_6, b_2),$   
 $(a_4, b_2, c_6; c_7, c_3, a_3), (a_5, b_3, c_7; c_2, c_1, b_6), (a_6, b_4, c_1; b_2, c_3, a_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_5, c_2; b_6, c_3, b_4), (a_2, b_6, c_4; c_7, c_5, a_6), (a_6, b_1, c_2; b_3, c_7, b_6),$   
 $(a_1, b_3, c_4; c_3, c_2, a_5), (a_3, b_5, c_1; c_7, c_6, b_2)\}$ .

E.  $K_{6,6,8}$  can be decomposed into 22 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, c_8, a_2), (a_2, b_2, c_2; b_4, c_1, a_6), (a_3, b_3, c_3; c_6, a_2, a_6),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; b_1, c_1, a_5), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_8, a_2, b_6), (a_6, b_6, c_6; b_2, c_3, a_2),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; c_5, c_7, a_1), (a_3, b_2, c_4; c_7, c_5, b_1), (a_4, b_3, c_5; b_5, c_1, b_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; c_1, c_2, a_1), (a_6, b_5, c_7; b_3, c_3, b_4), (a_1, b_6, c_8; c_5, a_3, a_2),$   
 $(a_3, b_1, c_5; c_8, c_2, a_6), (a_4, b_2, c_6; c_1, c_8, b_1), (a_5, b_3, c_7; b_6, c_6, a_4),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_8; b_1, a_3, a_4), (a_1, b_5, c_2; c_7, c_8, a_5), (a_2, b_6, c_4; c_7, c_1, a_6),$   
 $(a_3, b_5, c_1; c_2, c_6, a_6), (a_4, b_6, c_2; c_3, c_7, b_3), (a_1, b_3, c_4; b_4, c_8, b_5),$   
 $(a_5, b_2, c_3; b_1, c_7, b_4)\}$ .

F.  $K_{6,6,10}$  can be decomposed into 26 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_3, c_8, b_6), (a_2, b_2, c_2; b_4, a_1, a_4), (a_3, b_3, c_3; c_1, c_2, b_4),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; c_3, c_1, b_5), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_2, c_3, b_6), (a_6, b_6, c_6; c_4, c_3, b_5),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; b_3, a_6, a_1), (a_3, b_2, c_4; b_5, c_9, a_2), (a_4, b_3, c_5; c_1, c_4, b_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; c_4, c_2, b_3), (a_6, b_5, c_7; c_3, c_8, a_3), (a_1, b_6, c_8; c_4, c_7, a_4),$   
 $(a_3, b_1, c_5; b_4, c_2, b_2), (a_4, b_2, c_6; b_6, c_1, b_1), (a_5, b_3, c_7; c_1, c_8, a_2),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_8; c_2, c_7, a_3), (a_1, b_5, c_9; c_5, c_{10}, a_2), (a_2, b_6, c_{10}; c_5, c_9, a_5),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_7; b_5, c_4, a_1), (a_5, b_2, c_8; b_6, c_3, a_2), (a_6, b_3, c_9; c_1, c_{10}, a_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_{10}; c_6, c_9, a_4), (a_2, b_5, c_1; c_6, c_2, b_3), (a_3, b_6, c_2; c_6, c_4, a_1),$   
 $(a_5, b_1, c_9; c_3, c_{10}, a_3), (a_6, b_2, c_{10}; c_5, c_7, a_3)\}$ .

G.  $K_{6,6,11}$  can be decomposed into 28 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; b_2, c_8, b_5), (a_2, b_2, c_2; c_7, c_{11}, a_4), (a_3, b_3, c_3; c_{11}, c_2, b_4),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; c_3, c_{11}, b_5), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_{11}, c_3, b_6), (a_6, b_6, c_6; c_3, c_4, b_5),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; b_3, a_6, a_1), (a_3, b_2, c_4; b_5, c_9, a_2), (a_4, b_3, c_5; c_{11}, c_4, b_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; c_4, c_2, b_3), (a_6, b_5, c_7; c_4, c_8, b_6), (a_1, b_6, c_8; c_4, c_{11}, a_4),$   
 $(a_3, b_1, c_5; c_1, c_2, b_2), (a_4, b_2, c_6; b_6, c_1, b_1), (a_5, b_3, c_7; c_1, c_8, a_3),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_8; c_2, c_7, a_3), (a_1, b_5, c_9; c_5, c_{10}, b_6), (a_2, b_6, c_{10}; c_5, c_3, a_5),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_7; b_5, c_4, a_1), (a_5, b_2, c_8; b_6, c_3, a_2), (a_6, b_3, c_9; c_1, c_{10}, a_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_{10}; c_6, c_9, a_4), (a_2, b_5, c_{11}; c_6, c_2, a_6), (a_3, b_6, c_2; c_6, c_1, a_5),$   
 $(a_5, b_1, c_9; c_3, c_{10}, a_3), (a_6, b_2, c_{10}; c_5, c_7, a_3), (a_1, b_3, c_{11}; c_2, c_1, b_1),$

$(a_2, b_4, c_1; c_9, a_3, a_4)\}$ .

H.  $K_{6,6,13}$  can be decomposed into 32 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; c_{13}, c_2, a_4), (a_2, b_2, c_2; c_1, c_3, b_3), (a_3, b_3, c_3; b_4, c_4, a_5),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; c_8, c_1, b_1), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_{10}, c_2, a_6), (a_6, b_6, c_6; c_{12}, a_5, a_3),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; b_3, c_{12}, a_4), (a_3, b_2, c_4; c_8, c_1, a_5), (a_4, b_3, c_5; c_9, c_6, b_6),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; c_{13}, c_2, a_2), (a_6, b_5, c_7; c_{13}, c_3, a_3), (a_1, b_6, c_8; c_3, c_1, a_2),$   
 $(a_3, b_1, c_5; c_1, c_6, b_2), (a_4, b_2, c_6; c_{11}, c_7, a_1), (a_5, b_3, c_7; c_{12}, c_1, a_2),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_8; c_1, c_3, b_5), (a_1, b_5, c_9; c_2, c_4, a_2), (a_2, b_6, c_{10}; c_4, c_3, a_4),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_7; c_{13}, c_8, b_6), (a_5, b_2, c_8; c_1, c_9, b_3), (a_6, b_3, c_9; c_2, c_{10}, b_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_{10}; c_4, c_5, a_3), (a_2, b_5, c_{11}; c_{13}, c_6, b_4), (a_3, b_6, c_{12}; c_9, c_4, a_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_1, c_9; c_2, c_{10}, b_6), (a_6, b_2, c_{10}; c_3, c_{11}, b_5), (a_1, b_3, c_{11}; c_5, c_{13}, b_6),$   
 $(a_2, b_4, c_{12}; c_5, c_7, b_3), (a_3, b_5, c_{13}; c_{11}, c_1, b_4), (a_4, b_6, c_2; b_5, c_{13}, a_3),$   
 $(a_6, b_1, c_{11}; c_4, c_{13}, a_5), (a_1, b_2, c_{12}; c_7, c_{13}, b_5)\}$ .

I.  $K_{6,6,14}$  can be decomposed into 34 3-suns as follows:

$\{(a_1, b_1, c_1; c_{13}, c_2, a_4), (a_2, b_2, c_2; c_1, c_3, b_3), (a_3, b_3, c_3; c_{10}, c_4, a_5),$   
 $(a_4, b_4, c_4; b_5, c_1, b_1), (a_5, b_5, c_5; c_{14}, c_2, a_6), (a_6, b_6, c_6; c_{12}, a_5, a_3),$   
 $(a_2, b_1, c_3; c_9, c_{12}, a_4), (a_3, b_2, c_4; c_2, c_1, a_5), (a_4, b_3, c_5; c_9, c_6, b_6),$   
 $(a_5, b_4, c_6; c_{13}, c_2, a_2), (a_6, b_5, c_7; c_{13}, c_3, a_3), (a_1, b_6, c_8; c_3, c_2, a_2),$   
 $(a_3, b_1, c_5; c_8, c_6, b_2), (a_4, b_2, c_6; c_{11}, c_7, a_1), (a_5, b_3, c_7; c_{12}, c_1, a_1),$   
 $(a_6, b_4, c_8; c_1, c_3, b_5), (a_1, b_5, c_9; c_2, c_4, b_2), (a_2, b_6, c_{10}; c_4, c_3, a_4),$   
 $(a_4, b_1, c_7; c_2, c_{14}, b_6), (a_5, b_2, c_8; c_1, c_{14}, b_1), (a_6, b_3, c_9; c_2, c_{10}, b_4),$   
 $(a_1, b_4, c_{10}; c_4, c_5, a_5), (a_2, b_5, c_{11}; c_{14}, c_6, b_4), (a_3, b_6, c_{12}; c_9, c_4, a_4),$   
 $(a_5, b_1, c_9; c_2, c_{10}, b_6), (a_6, b_2, c_{10}; c_3, c_{11}, b_5), (a_1, b_3, c_{11}; c_5, c_8, b_6),$   
 $(a_2, b_4, c_{12}; c_5, c_7, b_3), (a_3, b_5, c_{13}; c_{11}, c_1, b_6), (a_4, b_6, c_{14}; c_8, c_1, b_5),$   
 $(a_6, b_1, c_{11}; c_4, c_{13}, a_5), (a_1, b_2, c_{12}; c_{14}, c_{13}, b_5), (a_2, b_3, c_{13}; c_7, c_{14}, a_4),$   
 $(a_3, b_4, c_{14}; c_1, c_{13}, a_6)\}$ .

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