# Bigraph-factorization of symmetric complete bipartite multi-digraphs

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#### Abstract

We show that a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of the symmetric complete bipartite multi-digraph  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  is (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and (ii)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p'+q')p'q'/e}$  for  $p \neq q$ , where d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d,  $e = (\lambda, p'q')$ .

#### 1. Introduction

The symmetric complete bipartite multi-digraph  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  is the symmetric complete bipartite digraph  $K_{m,n}^*$  in which every arc is taken  $\lambda$  times. Let  $K_{p,q}$  denote the complete bipartite digraph in which all arcs are directed away from p start-vertices to q end-vertices. A spanning subgraph F of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  is called a  $K_{p,q}$  - factor if each component of F is isomorphic to  $K_{p,q}$ . If  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  is expressed as an arc-disjoint sum of  $K_{p,q}$  - factors, then this sum is called a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ . In this paper, it is shown that a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of such a factorization is (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and (ii)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')p'q'/e}$  for  $p \neq q$ , where d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d,  $e = (\lambda, p'q')$ .

Let  $K_{n_1,n_2}$ ,  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ ,  $K_{n_1,n_2,n_3}$ , and  $K^*_{n_1,n_2,n_3}$  denote the complete bipartite graph, the symmetric complete bipartite digraph, the complete tripartite graph, and the symmetric complete tripartite digraph, respectively. Let  $\hat{C}_k$ ,  $\hat{S}_k$ ,  $\hat{P}_k$ , and  $\hat{K}_{p,q}$  denote the cycle or the directed cycle, the star or the directed star, the path or the directed path, and the complete bipartite graph or the complete bipartite digraph, respectively, on two partite sets  $V_i$  and  $V_j$ . Then the problems of giving the necessary and sufficient conditions of  $\hat{C}_k$  - factorization of  $K_{n_1,n_2}$ ,  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ , and  $K^*_{n_1,n_2,n_3}$  have been completely solved by Enomoto, Miyamoto and Ushio[3] and Ushio[12].  $\hat{S}_k$  - factorization of  $K_{n_1,n_2}$ ,  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ ,  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ , and  $K^*_{n_1,n_2,n_3}$  have been studied by Du[2], Ushio and Tsuruno[9], Ushio[14], and Wang[18]. Recently, Martin[5,6] and Ushio[11] gave

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necessary and sufficient conditions for  $\hat{S}_k$  - factorization of  $K_{n_1,n_2}$  and  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ .  $\hat{P}_k$  - factorization of  $K_{n_1,n_2}$  and  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$  have been studied by Ushio and Tsuruno[8], and Ushio[7,10].  $\hat{K}_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $K_{n_1,n_2}$  has been studied by Martin[5]. Ushio[13] gave necessary and sufficient conditions for  $\hat{K}_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $K^*_{n_1,n_2}$ . For graph theoretical terms, see [1,4].

### 2. $K_{p,q}$ - factor of $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$

The following theorem is on the existence of a  $K_{p,q}$  - factor of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ .

**Theorem 1.**  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factor if and only if for p = q (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and for  $p \neq q$  (ii)  $m + n \equiv 0 \pmod{p + q}$ , (iii)  $pm - qn \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2 - q^2}$ , (iv)  $pn - qm \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2 - q^2}$ , (v)  $pm \geq qn$  and (vi)  $pn \geq qm$ .

**Proof.** (Necessity) Suppose that  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$ -factor F. Let t be the number of components of F. Then t = (m+n)/(p+q). Among these t components, let  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  be the number of components whose start-vertices are in  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , respectively. Then, since F is a spanning subgraph of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ , we have  $pt_1 + qt_2 = m$  and  $qt_1 + pt_2 = n$ . When p = q, we have  $pt_1 + pt_2 = m$  and  $pt_1 + pt_2 = n$ . Therefore, Condition (i) is necessary. When  $p \neq q$ , we have  $t_1 = (pm - qn)/(p^2 - q^2)$  and  $t_2 = (pn - qm)/(p^2 - q^2)$ . From  $0 \leq t_1 \leq m$  and  $0 \leq t_2 \leq n$ , we must have  $pm \geq qn$  and  $pn \geq qm$ . Condition (ii)-(vi) are, therefore, necessary.

(Sufficiency) When p = q, put m = sp and n = sp. Then obviously  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,p}$  - factor formed by s  $K_{p,p}$ 's. When  $p \neq q$ , for those parameters m and nsatisfying (ii)-(vi), let  $t_1 = (pm - qn)/(p^2 - q^2)$  and  $t_2 = (pn - qm)/(p^2 - q^2)$ . Then  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are integers such that  $0 \leq t_1 \leq m$  and  $0 \leq t_2 \leq n$ . Hence,  $pt_1 + qt_2 = m$  and  $qt_1 + pt_2 = n$ . Using  $pt_1$  vertices in  $V_1$  and  $qt_1$  vertices in  $V_2$ , consider  $t_1$   $K_{p,q}$ 's whose start-vertices are in  $V_1$ . Using the remaining  $qt_2$  vertices in  $V_1$  and the remaining  $pt_2$ vertices in  $V_2$ , consider  $t_2$   $K_{p,q}$ 's whose start-vertices are in  $V_2$ . Then these  $t_1 + t_2$  $K_{p,q}$ 's are arc-disjoint and they form a  $K_{p,q}$  - factor of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ .

**Corollary 2.**  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factor if and only if  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{p+q}$  for  $p \neq q$ .

## **3.** $K_{p,q}$ - factorization of $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$

We use the following notation.

**Notation.** Given a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ , let

r be the number of factors

t be the number of components of each factor

b be the total number of components.

Among t components of each factor, let  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  be the numbers of components whose start-vertices are in  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , respectively.

Among r components having vertex x in  $V_i$ , let  $r_{ij}$  be the numbers of components whose start-vertices are in  $V_j$ .

We give the following necessary condition for the existence of a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d,  $e = (\lambda, p'q')$ . If  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization, then (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and (ii)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')p'q'/e}$  for  $p \neq q$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization. Then  $b = 2\lambda mn/pq$ , t = (m+n)/(p+q),  $r = b/t = 2\lambda mn(p+q)/(m+n)pq$ . And  $t_1 = (pm-qn)/(p^2-q^2)$ ,  $t_2 = (pn-qm)/(p^2-q^2)$  for  $p \neq q$ . Moreover,  $qr_{11} = \lambda n$ ,  $pr_{12} = \lambda n$ ,  $pr_{21} = \lambda m$ , and  $qr_{22} = \lambda m$ . Thus we have  $r = r_{11} + r_{12} = \lambda n(p+q)/pq$  and  $r = r_{21} + r_{22} = \lambda m(p+q)/pq$ . Therefore, m = n is necessary.

Moreover, when m = n and p = q, we have  $b = 2\lambda n^2/p^2$ , t = n/p,  $r = 2\lambda n/p$ ,  $r_{11} = r_{12} = r_{21} = r_{22} = \lambda n/p$ . Therefore,  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is also necessary. When m = n and  $p \neq q$ , we have  $b = 2\lambda n^2/d^2p'q'$ , t = 2n/d(p' + q'),  $r = \lambda n(p' + q')/dp'q'$ ,  $r_{11} = r_{22} = \lambda n/dq'$ ,  $r_{12} = r_{21} = \lambda n/dp'$ ,  $t_1 = t_2 = n/d(p' + q')$ . Thus we have  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')}$  and  $\lambda n \equiv 0 \pmod{dp'q'}$ . Therefore,  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')p'q'/e}$  is also necessary.

**Lemma 4.** Let G, H and K be digraphs. If G has an H - factorization and H has a K - factorization, then G has a K - factorization.

**Proof.** Let  $E(G) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} E(F_i)$  be an H - factorization of G. Let  $H_j^{(i)}$   $(1 \le j \le t)$  be the components of  $F_i$ . And let  $E(H_j^{(i)}) = \bigcup_{k=1}^{s} E(K_k^{(i,j)})$  be a K - factorization of  $H_j^{(i)}$ . Then  $E(G) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{r} \bigcup_{k=1}^{s} E(\bigcup_{j=1}^{t} K_k^{(i,j)})$  is a K - factorization of G.

We prove the following extension theorems, which we use later in this paper.

**Theorem 5.** If  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization, then  $s\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization for every positive integer s.

**Proof.** Obvious. Construct a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  repeatly s times. Then we have a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $s\lambda K_{n,n}^*$ .

**Theorem 6.** If  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization, then  $\lambda K_{sn,sn}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization for every positive integer s.

**Proof.** Since  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization,  $\lambda K_{sn,sn}^*$  has a  $K_{sp,sq}$  - factorization. Obviously,  $K_{sp,sq}$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization. Therefore, by Lemma 4  $\lambda K_{sn,sn}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization. We use the following notation for a  $K_{p,q}$ .

**Notation.** Let  $U = \{u_1, u_2, ..., u_p\}$  and  $V = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_q\}$ . For a  $K_{p,q}$  whose startvertex set is U and end-vertex set is V, we denote  $(u_1, u_2, ..., u_p; v_1, v_2, ..., v_q)$  or (U; V).

We give the following sufficient conditions for the existence of a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$ .

**Theorem 7.** When  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ ,  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,p}$  - factorization.

**Proof.** Put n = sp. Let  $V_1 = \{1, 2, ..., p\}$  and  $V_2 = \{1', 2', ..., p'\}$ . Then  $(V_1; V_2)$  and  $(V_2; V_1)$  are  $K_{p,p}$  - factors and they comprise a  $K_{p,p}$  - factorization of  $K_{p,p}^*$ . Applying Theorem 5 and Theorem 6, we see that  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,p}$  - factorization.

**Theorem 8.** For  $p \neq q$ , let d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d. When  $p'q' = x\lambda$  and  $n = d(p' + q')p'q'/\lambda$ ,  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$ -factorization.

**Proof.** Let  $V_1 = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ ,  $V_2 = \{1', 2', ..., n'\}$ . For i = 1, 2, ..., p' + q' and j = 1, 2, ..., p' + q', construct  $(p' + q')^2 K_{p,q}$  - factors  $F_{ij}$  as following:  $F_{ij} = \{(A + 1, ..., A + p); (B + g + 1, ..., B + g + q)'\}$   $((A + p + 1, ..., A + 2p); (B + g + q + 1, ..., B + g + 2q)'\}$ ... ((A + (f - 1)p + 1, ..., A + fp); (B + g + (f - 1)q + 1, ..., B + g + fq)') ((B + 1, ..., B + p)'; (A + g + 1, ..., A + g + q)) ((B + p + 1, ..., B + 2p)'; (A + g + q + 1, ..., A + g + 2q))...  $((B + (f - 1)p + 1, ..., B + fp)'; (A + g + (f - 1)q + 1, ..., A + g + fq)) \}$ , where A = (i - 1)dp'q', B = (j - 1)dp'q',  $f = p'q'/\lambda$ , g = fp, and the additions are taken modulo n with residues 1, 2, ..., n. Then they comprise a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization of  $\lambda K^*_{n,n}$ .

**Theorem 9.** For  $p \neq q$ , let d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d,  $e = (\lambda, p'q')$ . When  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p'+q')p'q'/e}$ ,  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization.

**Proof.** Let x = p'q'/e and  $y = \lambda/e$ . Then p'q' = xe and  $\lambda = ye$ . Put n = d(p'+q')p'q's/e and N = d(p'+q')p'q'/e. By Theorem 8,  $eK_{N,N}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization. Applying Theorem 4 and Theorem 5, we see that  $\lambda K_{n,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization.

We have the following main theorem and its corollary.

**Main Theorem.** Let d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d,  $e = (\lambda, p'q')$ .  $\lambda K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization if and only if (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and (ii)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')p'q'/e)}$  for  $p \neq q$ .

**Corollary[13].** Let d = (p,q), p' = p/d, q' = q/d.  $K_{m,n}^*$  has a  $K_{p,q}$  - factorization if and only if (i)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for p = q and (ii)  $m = n \equiv 0 \pmod{d(p' + q')p'q'}$  for  $p \neq q$ .

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