

# A Complete Classification of (12, 4, 1)-PMDs With a $\beta_1$ -Block

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**Abstract** A perfect Mendelsohn design, denoted by  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD, is a pair  $(X, \mathcal{A})$ , where  $X$  is a  $v$ -set (of points), and  $\mathcal{A}$  is a collection of cyclically ordered  $k$ -subsets of  $X$  (called blocks), such that every ordered pair of points of  $X$  appears  $t$ -apart in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  for any  $t$ , where  $1 \leq t \leq k-1$ . Let  $A$  be a block of  $\mathcal{A}$ ; if there are exactly  $u$  blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  which have no common elements with  $A$ , then we say  $A$  is a  $\beta_u$ -block. In this article, it is proved that there are exactly 141 non-isomorphic  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMDs with a  $\beta_1$ -block.

**Key words**  $\beta_u$ -block, perfect Mendelsohn design, isomorphism

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## 具有 $\beta_1$ 型区组的 (12, 4, 1)-PMD 的完全分类

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[摘要] 设  $X$  是一个  $v$  元点集,  $\mathcal{A}$  是循环有序的  $k$  元子集簇. 一个完全 Mendelsohn 设计, 记为  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD, 是二元组  $(X, \mathcal{A})$ , 使得  $X$  中每个有序点对恰好  $t$  间隔地出现在  $\lambda$  个区组中. 若一个区组恰有  $u$  个区组与之不交, 则称之为  $\beta_u$  区组. 本文证明了共有 141 个不同构具有  $\beta_1$  型区组的  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD.

[关键词]  $\beta_u$ -区组, 完全, Mendelsohn 设计, 同构

## 0 Introduction

Let  $v, k, \lambda$  and  $n$  be positive integers.  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$  is defined to be  $\{(x_i, x_j) : i \neq j, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k\}$ , in which the ordered pair  $(x_i, x_j)$  is called  $(j-i)$ -apart for  $i < j$  and  $(k+j-i)$ -apart for  $i > j$ , and is called a cyclically ordered  $k$ -subset of  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}$ .

A perfect Mendelsohn design, denoted by  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD, is a pair  $(X, \mathcal{A})$ , where  $X$  is a  $v$ -set (of points), and  $\mathcal{A}$  is a collection of cyclically ordered  $k$ -subsets of  $X$  (called blocks), such that every ordered pair of points of  $X$  appears  $t$ -apart in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  for any  $t$ , where  $1 \leq t \leq k-1$ .

For the existence problem for  $(v, 4, 1)$ -PMD, Mendelsohn<sup>[1]</sup> first investigated the existence of  $(v, 4, 1)$ -PMDs by associating these designs with a variety of quasigroups. However, there was no concerted effort made to determine the spectrum of these designs until an almost complete solution was given for the case  $v \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  in Bennett<sup>[2]</sup>, by exploiting PBD-closure. Zhang Xuebin<sup>[3]</sup> had considerable success with the case  $v \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . Subsequent investigations culminated in the following conclusive result for  $(v, 4, \lambda)$  in Bennett et al<sup>[4]</sup>. It

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should be remarked that the most outstanding case for the existence of a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD was finally settled in a computer search for its associated quasigroup and the example was provided in Bennett et al<sup>[5]</sup>. Hence we have

**Theorem 0 1** A  $(v, 4, 1)$ -PMD exists if and only if  $v(v-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  with the exception of  $v=4$  and  $v=8$

**Definition 0 1** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD. Let  $A$  be a block of  $\mathcal{A}$ . If there are exactly  $u$  blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  which have no common elements with  $A$ , then we say  $A$  is a  $\beta_u$ -block

**Lemma 0 1** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD and  $\mathcal{A}^{-1} = \{(d, c, b, a) : (a, b, c, d) \in \mathcal{A}\}$ . Then  $(X, \mathcal{A}^{-1})$  is also a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMD.

**Definition 0 2** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  be two collections of cyclically ordered  $k$ -subsets of  $X$ . We say they are isomorphic if

- (i) there exists a bijection  $\alpha$  from  $X$  to  $X$  such that  $\alpha(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{C}$
- (ii)  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A}^{-1}$ .

Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be two  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMDs. We say they are isomorphic if  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  are isomorphic.

**Lemma 0 2** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be two  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMDs. If  $\alpha$  is an isomorphic mapping and  $A$  is a  $\beta_u$ -block of  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\alpha(A)$  is a  $\beta_u$ -block of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

From Lemma 0 2 we have

**Lemma 0 3** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $(X, \mathcal{C})$  be two  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -PMDs. If there is an integer  $u$  such that the number of  $\beta_u$ -blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  is not equal to that of  $\mathcal{C}$ , then they are not isomorphic.

In this article, we will show that there are exactly 141 non-isomorphic  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMDs with a  $\beta_1$ -block.

## 1 Intersecting Equations

A  $(v, k, \lambda)$  balanced incomplete block design (briefly BIBD) is a pair  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  where  $X$  is a  $v$ -set of elements called points, and  $\mathcal{B}$  is a set of  $k$ -subsets of  $X$  called blocks with the property that every pair of  $X$  is contained in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks.

**Lemma 1 1** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD and  $\mathcal{B} = \{(a, b, c, d) : (a, b, c, d) \in \mathcal{A}\}$ . Then  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a  $(12, 4, 3)$ -BIBD with no repeated blocks.

**Lemma 1 2** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD. Let  $A$  be a block of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $x_i$  denote the number of the blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  which have exactly  $i$  common elements with  $A$ . Then we have the following equations

$$x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 33, \quad x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 + 4x_4 = 44, \quad x_2 + 3x_3 + 6x_4 = 18, \quad x_4 = 1$$

and their solutions are  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \{(0, 28, 0, 4, 1), (1, 25, 3, 3, 1), (2, 22, 6, 2, 1), (3, 19, 9, 1, 1), (4, 16, 12, 0, 1)\}$ .

From Lemma 1 2, we have

**Lemma 1 3** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD and  $A$  be a  $\beta_k$ -block of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

**Lemma 1 4** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD. Let  $A$  be a block of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $z \in A$ , and  $c_i$  denote the number of the blocks of  $\mathcal{A}$  which have  $z$  and exactly  $i$  elements of  $A$ . Then we have the following equations

$$c_0 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = 11, \quad c_1 + 2c_2 + 3c_3 = 12$$

From Lemma 1 2,  $c_0 + c_3 \leq 4$ , so we have

**Lemma 1 5** The solutions for the equations in Lemma 1 4 are  $(c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3) \in \{(4, 2, 5, 0), (3, 4, 4, 0), (2, 6, 3, 0), (1, 8, 2, 0), (0, 10, 1, 0), (3, 5, 2, 1), (2, 7, 1, 1), (1, 9, 0, 1)\}$ .

## 2 Structure for $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD With a $\beta_1$ -Block

**Lemma 2 1** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMD and  $A$  be a  $\beta_k$ -block of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then  $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

**Proof** From Lemma 1 3,  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Assume  $A$  is a  $\beta_0$ -block and  $z \in A$ . It follows from Lemma 1 2 that  $x_0 = x_2 = 0$ , this forces that  $c_0 = c_2 = 0$ . Hence by Lemma 1 4, we have  $2c_3 = 1$ , which has no integer solutions.

For  $A = (a \ b \ c \ d)$  we define  $\pi(A) = \{a \ b \ c \ d\}$ . Let

$$B_0 = \{3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12\}, B_1 = \{1 \ 4 \ 7 \ 10\}, B_2 = \{1 \ 3 \ 6 \ 9\}, B_3 = \{4 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12\},$$

$$B_4 = \{7 \ 3 \ 9 \ 12\}, B_5 = \{10 \ 6 \ 12 \ 2\}, B_6 = \{10 \ 3 \ 12 \ 5\}, B_7 = \{11 \ 3 \ 6 \ 8\}.$$

**Theorem 2 1** Let  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  be a  $(12 \ 4 \ 1)$ -PMD with a  $\beta_1$  block  $A_0$ . Then there is an isomorphism  $\alpha$  and seven blocks  $A_k \ (k = 1, 2, \dots, 7)$  such that  $\pi(\alpha(A_k)) = B_k, \ k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 7$ .

**Proof** Let  $\pi(\alpha(A_0)) = \{3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12\}$ . Since  $A_0$  is a  $\beta_1$  block,  $\alpha(A_0)$  is also a  $\beta_1$  block. By Lemma 1.2 we can let

$$\pi(\alpha(A_0)) = \{3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12\}, \pi(\alpha(A_1)) = \{1 \ 4 \ 7 \ 10\}, \pi(\alpha(A_2)) = \{3 \ 6 \ 9 \ -\},$$

$$\pi(\alpha(A_3)) = \{6 \ 9 \ 12 \ -\}, \pi(\alpha(A_4)) = \{3 \ 9 \ 12 \ -\}, \pi(\alpha(A_5)) = \{6 \ 12 \ -, \ -\},$$

$$\pi(\alpha(A_6)) = \{3 \ 12 \ -, \ -\}, \pi(\alpha(A_7)) = \{3 \ 6 \ -, \ -\}.$$

Apply Lemma 1.5 with  $z \in \{1 \ 4 \ 7 \ 10\}$  and  $\alpha(A_0)$ , it is easy to see that  $c_0 = 1, \ c_1 = 9, \ c_2 = 0, \ c_3 = 1$  or  $c_0 = 1, \ c_1 = 8, \ c_2 = 2, \ c_3 = 0$ . Hence we have

$$\pi(\alpha(A_2)) = \{1 \ 3 \ 6 \ 9\}, \pi(\alpha(A_3)) = \{4 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12\}, \pi(\alpha(A_4)) = \{7 \ 3 \ 9 \ 12\},$$

$$\pi(\alpha(A_5)) = \{10 \ 6 \ 12 \ -\}, \pi(\alpha(A_6)) = \{10 \ 3 \ 12 \ -\}, \pi(\alpha(A_7)) = \{3 \ 6 \ -, \ -\}.$$

Apply Lemma 1.5 with  $z \in \{2 \ 5 \ 8 \ 11\}$  and  $\alpha(A_0)$ , it is easy to see that  $c_0 = 0, \ c_1 = 10, \ c_2 = 1, \ c_3 = 0$ . Hence we have

$$\pi(\alpha(A_5)) = \{10 \ 6 \ 12 \ 2\}, \pi(\alpha(A_6)) = \{10 \ 3 \ 12 \ 5\}, \pi(\alpha(A_7)) = \{11 \ 3 \ 6 \ 8\}.$$

Let

$$R_1 = (3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12), R_2 = (3 \ 12 \ 6 \ 9), S_1 = (10 \ 1 \ 4 \ 7), S_2 = (10 \ 1 \ 7 \ 4),$$

$$S_3 = (10 \ 4 \ 1 \ 7), S_4 = (10 \ 4 \ 7 \ 1), S_5 = (10 \ 7 \ 1 \ 4), S_6 = (10 \ 7 \ 4 \ 1),$$

$$\mathcal{U}_1 = \{(1 \ 3 \ 9 \ 6), (4 \ 6 \ 12 \ 9), (7 \ 9 \ 3 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 6 \ 3), (10 \ 2 \ 12 \ 6), (10 \ 3 \ 5 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 6 \ 3), (10 \ 2 \ 12 \ 6), (10 \ 12 \ 5 \ 3)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 6 \ 3), (10 \ 12 \ 6 \ 2), (10 \ 3 \ 5 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{U}_2 = \{(1 \ 6 \ 3 \ 9), (4 \ 9 \ 6 \ 12), (7 \ 12 \ 9 \ 3)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_4 = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_2 \cup \{(11 \ 3 \ 8 \ 6), (10 \ 2 \ 12 \ 6), (10 \ 5 \ 3 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_5 = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_2 \cup \{(11 \ 3 \ 8 \ 6), (10 \ 12 \ 6 \ 2), (10 \ 5 \ 3 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_6 = \{R_1\} \cup \mathcal{U}_2 \cup \{(11 \ 3 \ 8 \ 6), (10 \ 12 \ 6 \ 2), (10 \ 3 \ 12 \ 5)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_7 = \{(4 \ 12 \ 9 \ 6), (1 \ 6 \ 3 \ 9), (7 \ 9 \ 12 \ 3)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_8 = \{R_2\} \cup \mathcal{A} \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 3 \ 6), (10 \ 2 \ 6 \ 12), (10 \ 12 \ 5 \ 3)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_9 = \{R_2\} \cup \mathcal{A} \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 3 \ 6), (10 \ 6 \ 12 \ 2), (10 \ 3 \ 5 \ 12)\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{10} = \{R_2\} \cup \mathcal{A} \cup \{(11 \ 8 \ 3 \ 6), (10 \ 6 \ 12 \ 2), (10 \ 12 \ 5 \ 3)\}.$$

By Definition 0.2 we have

**Lemma 2.2** If  $(i \ j) \neq (m \ n)$ , then  $\{S_i\} \cup \mathcal{A}$  and  $\{S_m\} \cup \mathcal{A}$  are not isomorphic.

By Definition 0.2 and Theorem 2.1 we have

**Lemma 2.3** There are integers  $i$  and  $j$  such that

$\{\alpha(A_k) : k = 0, 1, \dots, 7\}$  (in Theorem 2.1) and  $\{S_i\} \cup \mathcal{A}$  are isomorphic.

### 3 Non-isomorphic $(12 \ 4 \ 1)$ -PMDs

In the following we will show that it is easy to find all non-isomorphic  $(12 \ 4 \ 1)$ -PMDs with  $\{S_i\} \cup \mathcal{A}$ .

**Example 3.1** Find all non-isomorphic  $(12 \ 4 \ 1)$ -PMDs with  $\{S_1\} \cup \mathcal{A}$ . Since

$$\{S_1\} \cup \mathcal{A} = \{(3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12), (10 \ 1 \ 4 \ 7), (1 \ 3 \ 9 \ 6), (4 \ 6 \ 12 \ 9),$$

$$(7 \ 9 \ 3 \ 12), (10 \ 2 \ 12 \ 6), (10 \ 3 \ 5 \ 12), (11 \ 8 \ 6 \ 3)\}.$$

It is easy to see that the other 25 blocks should be

$$\begin{aligned} & (3, 1, -, -), (3, 2, -, -), (3, 4, -, -), (3, 7, -, -), (3, 8, -, -), \\ & (3, 10, -, -), (6, 2, -, -), (6, 4, -, -), (6, 5, -, -), (6, 7, -, -), \\ & (6, 8, -, -), (6, 11, -, -), (9, 1, -, -), (9, 2, -, -), (9, 5, -, -), \\ & (9, 7, -, -), (9, 8, -, -), (9, 10, -, -), (9, 11, -, -), (12, 1, -, -), \\ & (12, 2, -, -), (12, 4, -, -), (12, 5, -, -), (12, 8, -, -), (12, 11, -, -). \end{aligned}$$

With the help of computer, there are three  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMDs as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad \mathcal{E} = & \{(3, 6, 9, 12), (10, 1, 4, 7), (1, 3, 9, 6), (4, 6, 12, 9), (7, 9, 3, 12), \\ & (10, 2, 12, 6), (10, 3, 5, 12), (11, 8, 6, 3), (3, 1, 2, 4), (3, 2, 10, 7), \\ & (3, 4, 5, 8), (3, 7, 1, 5), (3, 8, 11, 2), (3, 10, 4, 11), (6, 2, 5, 11), \\ & (6, 4, 10, 5), (6, 5, 7, 2), (6, 7, 8, 10), (6, 8, 4, 1), (6, 11, 1, 7), \\ & (9, 1, 10, 11), (9, 2, 11, 4), (9, 5, 2, 1), (9, 7, 4, 8), (9, 8, 5, 10), \\ & (9, 10, 8, 2), (9, 11, 7, 5), (12, 1, 11, 10), (12, 2, 8, 1), (12, 4, 2, 7), \\ & (12, 5, 1, 8), (12, 8, 7, 11), (12, 11, 5, 4)\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(ii)} \quad \mathcal{E} = & \{(3, 6, 9, 12), (10, 1, 4, 7), (1, 3, 9, 6), (4, 6, 12, 9), (7, 9, 3, 12), \\ & (10, 2, 12, 6), (10, 3, 5, 12), (11, 8, 6, 3), (3, 1, 5, 4), (3, 2, 10, 8), \\ & (3, 4, 2, 5), (3, 7, 11, 2), (3, 8, 1, 7), (3, 10, 4, 11), (6, 2, 4, 5), \\ & (6, 4, 1, 11), (6, 5, 10, 7), (6, 7, 8, 10), (6, 8, 5, 1), (6, 11, 7, 2), \\ & (9, 1, 8, 2), (9, 2, 7, 4), (9, 5, 2, 8), (9, 7, 5, 11), (9, 8, 4, 10), \\ & (9, 10, 11, 1), (9, 11, 10, 5), (12, 1, 2, 11), (12, 2, 1, 10), (12, 4, 8, 7), \\ & (12, 5, 7, 1), (12, 8, 11, 4), (12, 11, 5, 8)\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(iii)} \quad \mathcal{E} = & \{(3, 6, 9, 12), (10, 1, 4, 7), (1, 3, 9, 6), (4, 6, 12, 9), (7, 9, 3, 12), \\ & (10, 2, 12, 6), (10, 3, 5, 12), (11, 8, 6, 3), (3, 1, 11, 2), (3, 2, 10, 11), \\ & (3, 4, 1, 5), (3, 7, 2, 4), (3, 8, 5, 7), (3, 10, 4, 8), (6, 2, 7, 5), \\ & (6, 4, 5, 1), (6, 5, 10, 7), (6, 7, 8, 11), (6, 8, 1, 2), (6, 11, 4, 10), \\ & (9, 1, 10, 8), (9, 2, 8, 4), (9, 5, 4, 11), (9, 7, 11, 10), (9, 8, 2, 5), \\ & (9, 10, 5, 2), (9, 11, 7, 1), (12, 1, 8, 10), (12, 2, 1, 7), (12, 4, 2, 11), \\ & (12, 5, 11, 1), (12, 8, 7, 4), (12, 11, 5, 8)\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easily checked that for (i) there are 1  $\beta_1$ -block, no  $\beta_2$ -block, 13  $\beta_3$ -blocks and 19  $\beta_4$ -blocks. We also say  $(1, 0, 13, 19)$  is the type vector of (i). It is also easily checked that the type vector of (ii) is  $(1, 4, 17, 11)$ , and the type vector of (iii) is  $(1, 1, 19, 12)$ . Hence (i), (ii) and (iii) are three non-isomorphic  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMDs by Lemma 0.3.

In the same way, we have the following theorem.

**Lemma 3.1** There are at most 144 non-isomorphic  $(12, 4, 1)$ -PMDs with a  $\beta_1$ -block.

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